

HOUSE OF MARCHAND AT THE PRAIRIE



MARCHAND

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THE HOUSE OF MARCHAND



House of Marchand at the Prairie

By

SIDNEY A. MARCHAND, I

Copyright, 1952, by Sidney A. Marchand,

Donaldsonville, Louisiana

[Handwritten signature]

To

EARLINE MARY MARCHAND

May 31, 1890

Dec. 9, 1917

EVIE THERESA MARCHAND

Oct. 25, 1903

July 20, 1933

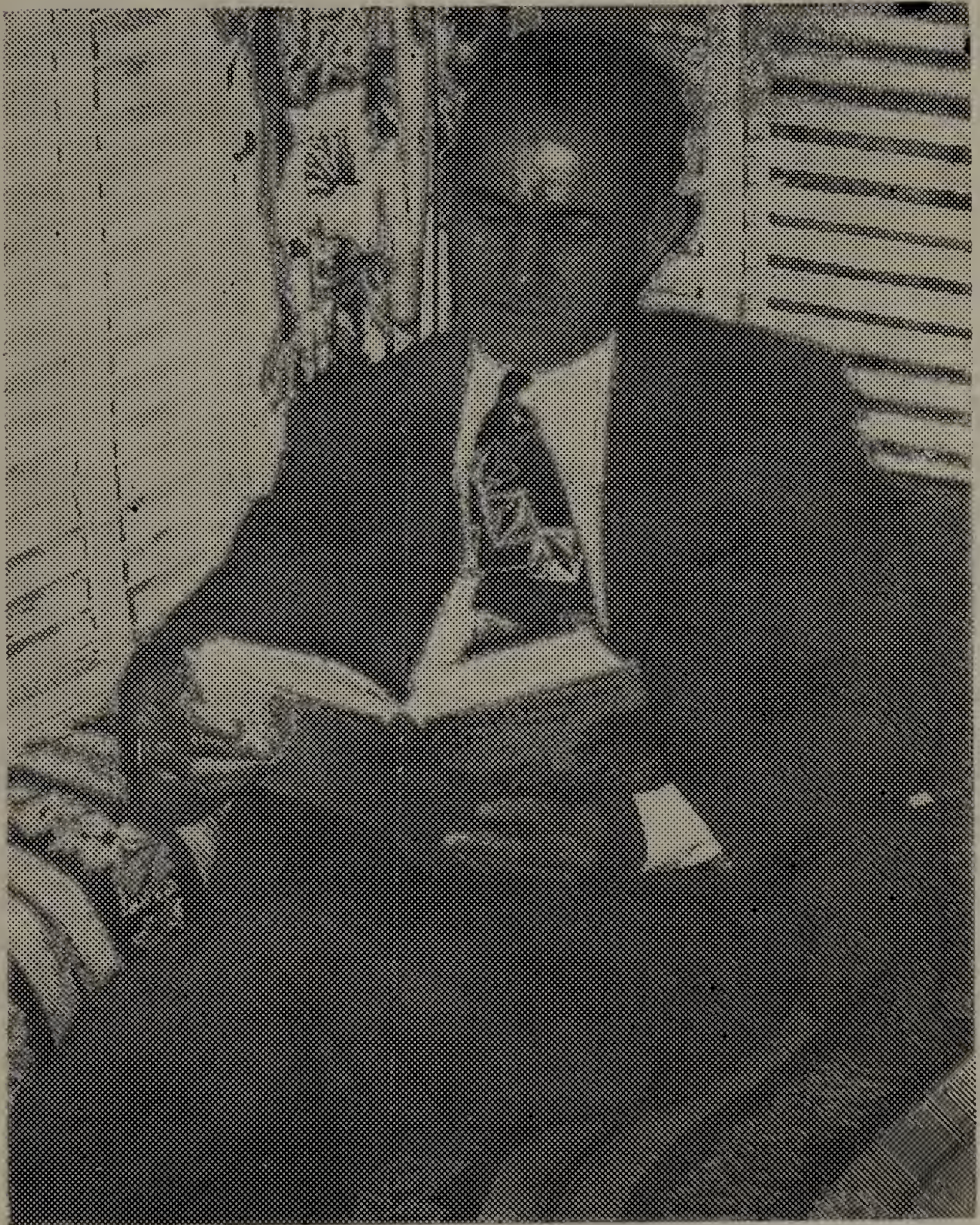
FRANCIS HAROLD MARCHAND

Nov. 22, 1891

Sept. 6, 1951

Qui nos praccesserunt cum signo fidei
et dormiunt in somno pacis

1291200



Francis Harold Marchand

Nov. 22, 1891

Sept. 6, 1951

INTRODUCTION

About one hundred twenty years ago, one Simon Marchand resided in the parish of Ascension, Louisiana. As far as is known he held no public office, was not a brilliant man, as so many of our ancestors are, did not, for any cause or reason, win fame, had no medals for having displayed gallantry in action, nor did Dame Fortune ever smile upon him. He pursued a quiet and peaceful life, and in the course of time, crossed the Great River on that journey from which no traveler returns. His descendants, numbering hundreds, know very little of him, his occupation, general appearance, life and times.

As one of his descendants, I have tried to collect such data concerning him as was available, and, by means of this little book, to transmit same to his posterity for their scrutiny and perusal.

Genealogical work is very interesting, but it is extremely tedious. Years ago my father, John A. Marchand, I, suggested to me that he would like to see a book on the "Marchand Family" before his death. He has passed away, and to my great sorrow, I am deprived of the opportunity of submitting the manuscript to him for his comments and suggestions.

Over a century ago, Simon Marchand married Marie Savoye. They had two children: Rosalie Adorea, who married Captain Joseph Gonzales, C. S. A., and my grandfather, Joseph Alexander Marchand. This work is confined to the descendants of Joseph Alexander Marchand, with only casual sketches and references to those who were closely related. The only reason, cause or excuse for this little book is my desire to perpetuate our family's history. It is said that the span of man's life is three score and ten. I have passed the three-score years and am now living on the "ten". Thus, I make this attempt to group data and photos of my ancestors together in this little volume. Since beginning work on this task, three close

relatives have been summoned to Eternal Sleep: My aunt, Earline Carver Kent Lyon, at Memphis, Sept. 5, 1951; my first cousin, Lee L. Carver, Crowley, August 13, 1951, and my dear brother, Francis Harold Marchand, Donaldsonville, Louisiana, September 6, 1951, while he was preparing to attend Aunt Earline's funeral in Thibodaux.

Many of the descendants have assisted me in compiling my book, and I thank all of them. Particularly do I thank Uncle Hiram W. Carver, now 89 years of age; Fathers Edmund Gaulrapp, of Gonzales, Lester J. Schexnayder, of St. James, Bleakley, of Convent, and Very Rev. Edwin F. Gubler, of Ascension Catholic church, Donaldsonville, for their search made for certain data. I thank Adele Babin (Mrs. Frederick Braud) and Myrza Babin LeBlanc, Mrs. Deoria Soley, Lee L. Carver, Sidney O. Broussard and Josephine G. Andrews for the use of old photographs. Also, for the same kind of assistance, I thank Myrl Carver Voinche, Helena Carver Perry, W. H. Carver, Alma Barilleau Sylvester and Marjorie Kent Crea. Thanks to Mrs. Lillian Ambeau Dupuy and to her little son, Joseph William Dupuy, for courtesies extended me on a visit to the old home at Prairieville. To Anna Mae Alonzo Le Beau and Joan Bonin go my thanks for typing.

SIDNEY A. MARCHAND

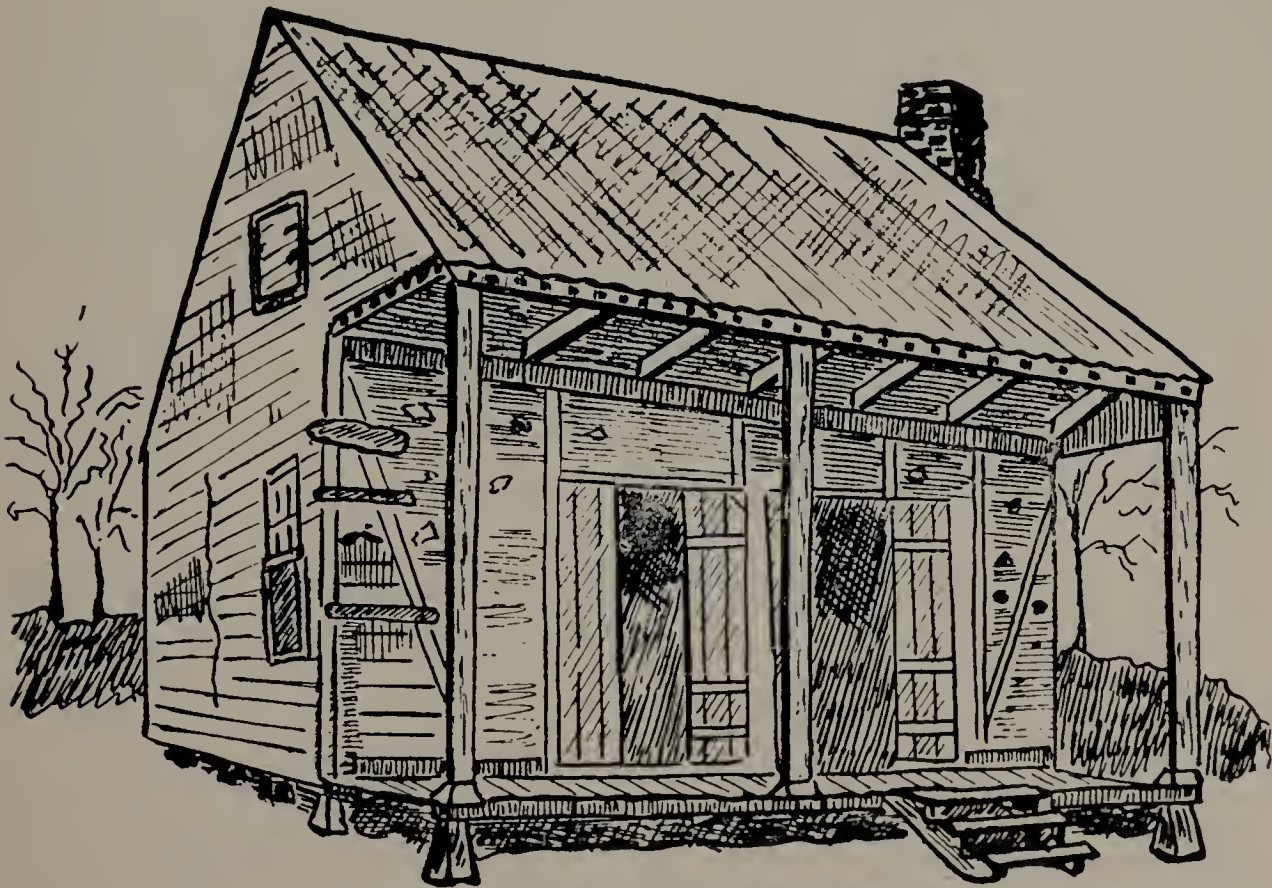
Donaldsonville, La.
Sept. 8, 1951

PART I

SIMON MARCHAND and MARIE SAVOYE

In my quest for data on Simon Marchand, I have contacted several ancient churches in the parish of St. James, Louisiana. No record of him was found at St. Michael's Catholic church at Convent, nor was anything found at the St. James Catholic church, at St. James, Louisiana. But, Father Lester Schexnayder, pastor of the St. James church, states that a check of the records from 1800 to 1850, on marriages and deaths, reveals the following in his death record:

“Pierre Etienne Marchand, native of the province of Normandy, in France, died and was buried from this church on March 9, 1818.”



House of Marchand at the Prairie

While I am of the opinion that Pierre Etienne (Peter Stephen) Marchand was the father of Simon Marchand, our ancestor, I am without any data at this time on which to base my belief. The record seems to convince us beyond

doubt that Simon Marchand was a resident of St. James parish; and it is entirely probable that he never, at any time, lived in Ascension parish. On June 17, 1833, he purchased at the succession sale of one Joseph Dugas, deceased, a slave named "Anna", age 40 years, and her child "Noel", age 7 years. The act of sale is recorded in C. B. 13, fo. 269, of the parish of St. James. Also, in C. B. 14, fo. 44, of the same parish we find that Simon Marchand and Marie Savoye, on February 28, 1835, sold a slave to Angelo Fascio. This appears to be the last reference in the Recorder's office of St. James parish to Simon Marchand.

His death must have occurred between 1835 and 1837, for we find that on June 27, 1837, in C. B. 14, fo. 148, Marie Savoye, widow of Simon Marchand, purchased from Leopold Granon, a small tract of land in Ascension parish, on the east bank of the Mississippi river, at about 4 miles above the present village of Darrow. (See also, C. B. 15, fo. 39). On July 24, 1839, she sold this small plantation to Francois Duvernay (C. B. 15, fo. 453). On April 9, 1840, she executed a receipt for \$400 in favor of Jacque Sulpice Cornet, of Jefferson parish, concerning this same tract of land.

Nothing is known concerning the date and place of the birth of Simon Marchand, nor anything concerning the exact date and place of his death.

Of my great grandmother, Marie Savoye, we have a little more data. She was the daughter of Simon Savoye and Rosalie Duhon, and was born on July 6, 1811. She was christened by Father Charles Lusson, of Ascension Catholic church, Donaldsonville, on May 31, 1812. Church records declare that both of her parents were natives of "St. Jacque de Cantrella", that is, the parish of St. James, Louisiana. Her sponsors were: Isidore Blanchard, church warden, Gorfather; and Marie Melancon, Gormother. (Vol. 2, Reg. of Bap. 186-1822, p. 370, Ascension church).

By her marriage to Simon Marchand she had two children, Joseph Alexander Marchand, my grandfather,

who was born on March 18, 1836; and Rosalie Adorea Marchand, who married Joseph Gonzales, father of the founder of the town of Gonzales, which marriage took place on Jan. 29, 1855.

Many years subsequent to the death of Simon Marchand, his widow, Marie Savoie, married Michael (Miguel) Gonzales, of Galvez, Louisiana. This marriage took place on Nov. 23, 1857, at Galvez. (Mar. Rec. 2, fo. 142).

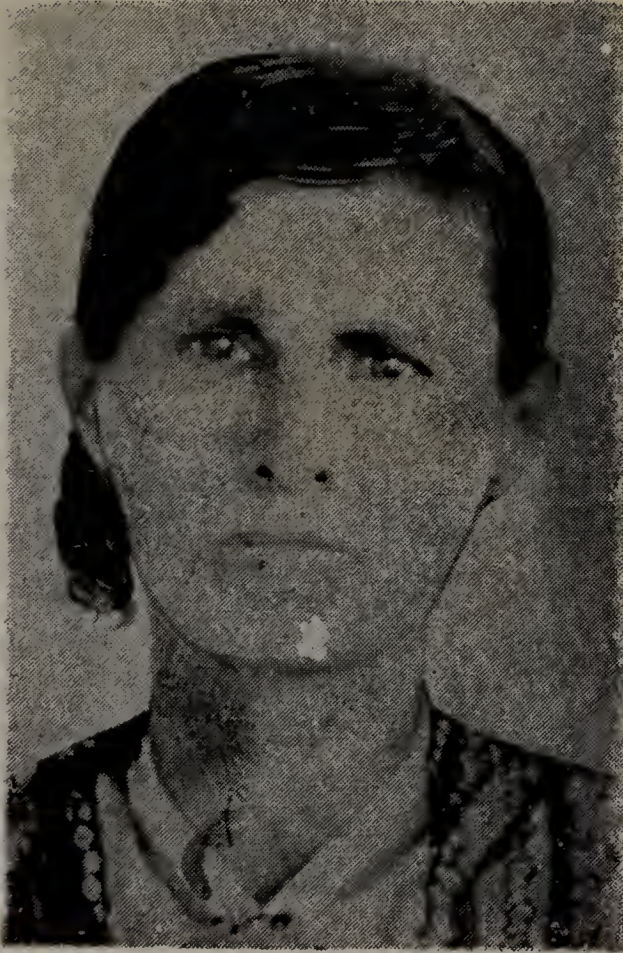
My father, John A. Marchand, I, when four years of age and motherless, lived with Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gonzales, with whom he made his home, on the south bank of the beautiful Amite River, for about 5 years. Their home was at the junction of the Amite and Manchac, on Section 17, the site of ancient Galveztown. By her second husband several children were born, among them being J. Butler Gonzales and Mrs. Anderson (Tobe) McCrory.

Mrs. Marie Savoie, wife of Michael Gonzales, and widow of Simon Marchand, died on December 14, 1873, and was buried by Father Julie in the cemetery east of the Prairieville Catholic Church. She outlived her son, Joseph Alexander Marchand, and, at her death was survived by her daughter, Rosalie Adorea, wife of Captain Joseph Gonzales, and by her children, above named, by Michael Gonzales.

The scope of this family history will be confined to the descendants of Joseph Alexander Marchand, with only casual sketches of those who were closely related.

PART II.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER MARCHAND and MAGDELINE OCTAVIE LANDRY



Marie Savoye Marchand J. Alexander Marchand

The exact place of birth of Joseph Alexander Marchand is unknown; however, he was born in Ascension parish, shortly following his mother's removal to said parish, or he was born in St. James parish shortly prior to his mother's removal from said parish. We have seen that his father, Simon Marchand, died between 1835 and 1837, and that his mother, Marie Savoie, appears to have removed to Ascension parish during that interval by reason of the fact that, on June 27, 1837, she purchased a small farm about 4 miles above the present site of Darrow. Joseph Alexander, her son, was born on March 18, 1836, and was Christened by Father Abbadie, of Ascension Catholic church, Donaldsonville, on July 6, 1837. His Godfather was Adolphe Braud, a pioneer of the New River section, and his Godmother was Elizabeth Braud (Reg. of Bap., 1823-1850, p. 314, Ascension church). It is safe to say that he was born in Ascension or St. James parishes.

I find that my grandfather, Joseph Alexander Marchand, drifted into the New River or Dutchtown, La. section at that date. It appears that he was at this location as early as 1865, when only 29 years of age. My father, John A. Marchand, 1, years ago stated to me that "his occupation was pharmacist (possibly self-taught) at the store of old man Dumini LeBlanc, at Dutch Stores". Dutch Store was the name of that section later known as Dutchtown, La. He died at Dutchtown, La., on October 31, 1867, when only 31 years of age. My father, John A. Marchand, I, was only a tiny tot at the time, and remembers little of him. In order to get a vague idea, at the best, of his business affairs we must seek recourse to his succession proceedings, on file in the Recorder's office of Ascension parish. We find that an inventory of his estate was made by J. Norbert Landry, Notary Public, the father-in-law of the decedent, on Nov. 16, 1867. This inventory was made at the "residence" of Dumini LeBlanc, with whom my grandfather, Joseph Alexander Marchand, lived subsequent to the death of his wife, Magdeleine Octavie Landry. Present for the taking of the inventory were Dumini LeBlanc, tutor of my father, Jean Alcide Marchand; Captain Joseph Gonzales, brother-in-law of the deceased, and undertutor of my father; J. B. (Segond) Hebert, later a Notary Public and a "landmark" of the New River settlement; Octavius A. Bullion, prominent citizen and gallant soldier of the Lost Cause; Comesse Mire and J. Augustin Landry.

In addition to certain promissory notes, we find that the estate consisted of the following:

ITEM	Appraised Value
14 Head of horned cattle	\$ 112.00
1 Riding pony	65.00
1 Saddle and bridle	15.00
1 Lot of bedding	15.00
1 Armoire	10.00
A certain lot of medicines	700.00
A Silver watch	5.00

A lot of beef hides	5.00
A certain lot of accounts	1,068.00
In cash, gold	19.00

Evidently he owned no real estate. His late wife, Magdeleine Octavie Landry, who was born on November 21, 1841, had died on January 31, 1862, and Joseph Alexander was living at Dumini LeBlanc's home, one mile north of Dutchtown, on the Dutchtown-Prairieville highway. My father's statement that he was a druggist (self-taught), and operated a drug department in the store of Dumini LeBlanc, where the Dutchtown store of Picard and Geismar was later established, is amply borne out by the record.



J. Norbert Landry



Mrs. J. Norbert Landry

My grandmother, Magdeleine Octavie Landry, a daughter of J. Norbert Landry, (justice of the peace and

Notary Public, at Prairieville, then in the parish of Iberville), and Cecile Eliza Landry, was born at Prairieville, on November 21, 1841. Unfortunately, I have been unable to locate a photo of her. She died in January, 1862, nearly ninety years ago. Her mother had seven children, as follows:

Marguerite Felicie (Mrs. Celicourt Hamilton), born July 10, 1840; Magdeleine Octavie (Mrs. Joseph Alexander Marchand), born Nov. 21, 1841; Avit Natalie (Mrs. John O. Broussard), born June 17, 1843; Eustache Butler, born Sept. 20, 1845; Elizabeth Alice, born July 7, 1847; Cecile Eugenie (Mrs. Edward F. Babin), born May 13, 1849, and Marie Cecile (Mrs. Landry C. Babin), born Sept. 11, 1851.

My father, John A. Marchand, I, often related to me the great kindness manifested towards him by the above named aunts during his infancy and childhood while he, an orphan child, struggled through life. I, personally, recall how Mrs. Edward Felix Babin and Mrs. John O. Broussard loved "Alcide"—as they always called my father.

The years and decades passed away, and, as the years passed, each of the foregoing was summoned unto Eternal Sleep, some in early life and others in ripe old age. Thus, in passing the Tablets of Time, we find the following dates of death inscribed thereon, to-wit: Elizabeth Alice, Nov. 10, 1849; Magdeleine Octavie, Jan. 31, 1862; Eustache Butler, May 6, 1849; Marguerite Felicie, July 19, 1866; Cecile Eugenie, March 5, 1928, and Marie Cecile, Dec. 18, 1927.

My great grandfather, J. Norbert Landry, was the Notary who took the inventory in the succession of his son-in-law, Joseph Alexander Marchand, and this inventory was taken on Nov. 16, 1867. At some subsequent date, he departed from the Prairieville, Louisiana, home for the Pacific Coast, and, as far as is known to me, he never returned to Ascension parish, Louisiana. In San Francisco, he established himself at 1421 Sacramento St. He was born at Prairieville on Jan. 24, 1820 and his death occur-

red in San Francisco about Dec. 10, 1878. He was probably living with Landry C. Babin, his son-in-law, there. His remains are probably interred in the California city.

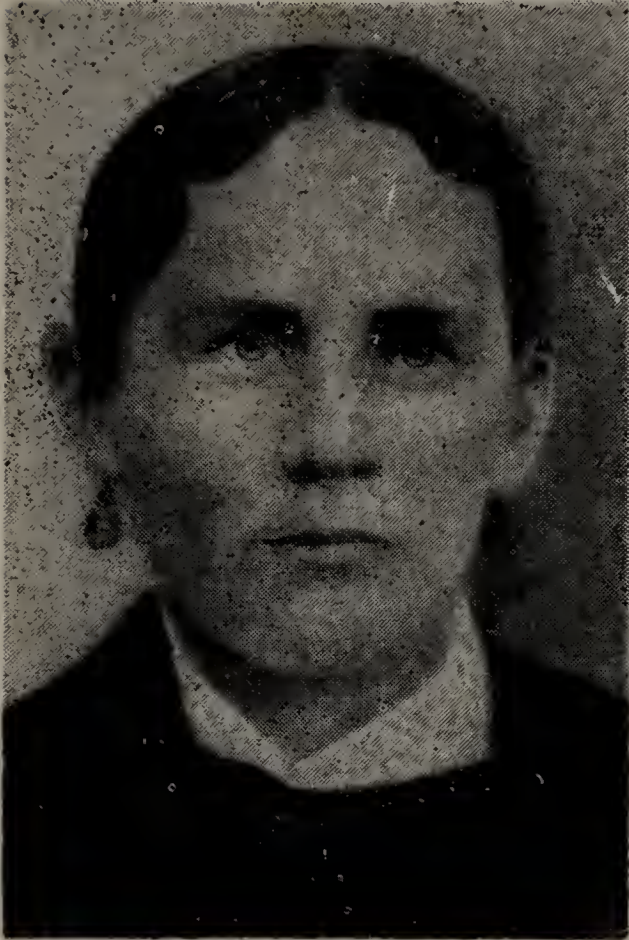
My great grandmother, Mrs. J. Norbert Landry, or "Grandma Norbert", as all of us called her, remained at Prairieville, living with various relatives to the date of her death, at Dutchtown, Louisiana, on December 19, 1911. Her remains are interred in the cemetery east of the Prairieville Catholic Church. I recollect the days, prior to 1895, when she lived with us at our little home at Prairieville. She was totally blind, had to be led around by the children, spent most of her time rocking in her rocking chair, remonstrated her great grandchildren, and mourned her fate. All of us loved her, paused at her chiding remarks and did everything possible to alleviate her pitiable condition. She left, at her decease, a legion of descendants, the Marchands, Babins, Broussards and Hamiltons, scattered throughout the land.

Joseph Alexander Marchand and Magdeleine Landry were married on April 25, 1859, by Father C. Baglioli, C. M., attached to Ascension Catholic church, at Donaldsonville. The marriage probably took place at Prairieville, and the following persons were present: Leon U. Landry, grandfather of the bride; Amedee Babin, Surville Bergeron, John A. Phillips, P. H. Landry, Caliste V. Babin and J. O. Landry (Book of Mar. No. 1, fo. 167, parish of Ascension). The bride was 18½, and the groom was 23 years of age.

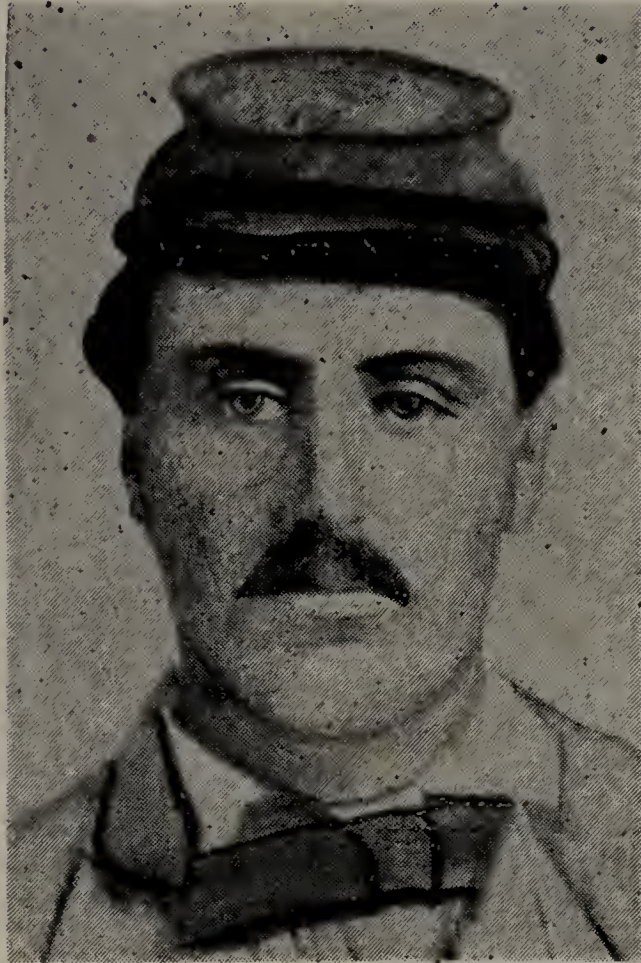
Two children were born issue of this marriage: Marie Lydia, on April 13, 1860, and John Alcide Marchand, on January 27, 1862. The young mother, Magdeleine Octavie Landry, died four days following the birth of my father, at their Prairieville home. Little Marie Lydia followed her mother to the grave on October 26, 1867; and, only four days thereafter—October 31, 1867—the father of this little family, Joseph Alexander Marchand, died, thus leaving my father, John A. Marchand, I, as the only remaining member of this little group.

PART III

Rosalie Adorea Marchand and Joseph Gonzales, III



Rosalie Adorea Marchand

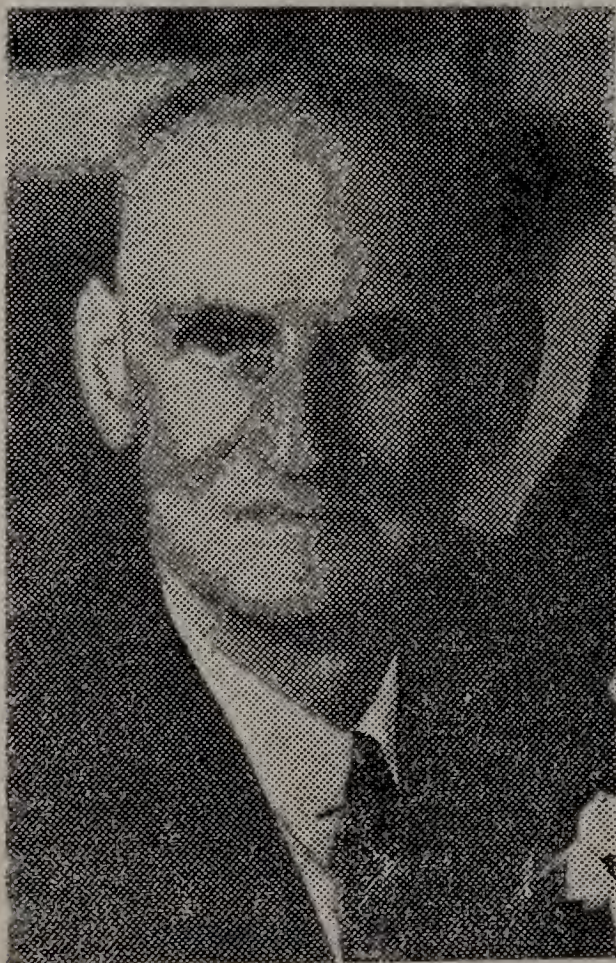


Capt. Jos. Gonzales

About one hundred twenty-five years ago, Joseph Gonzales and Marie Massias were married—the exact date and place being unknown. This marriage record may be found at the Catholic Church at St. Gabriel, La., as the northern portion of Ascension parish was formerly a part of Iberville parish. Let us refer to this Joseph Gonzales, as being the first of that name. Next, we find that Joseph Gonzales, II, a son of Joseph Gonzales, I, and Marie Massias, was married, on July 28, 1834, to Delphine Gautreau, a daughter of Rapheal Gautreau and Constance Braud, at the home of the bride's father, by Father H. Brassac, of Ascension Catholic church. (See Bk. of Mar. No. 3, 1828-1836, Ascension church, p. 101.) Then on January 29, 1855, Joseph Gonzales, III, a son of Joseph Gonzales, II, and Delphine Gautreau, was married to Rosalie Adorea Marchand, a daughter of Simon Marchand

and Marie Savoye. (Mar. Rec. No. 2, fo. 84, Ascension parish).

Joseph Gonzales, III, was a gallant soldier of the Confederacy, who, after returning from the field of battle, was elected sheriff of the parish of Ascension. He and Rosalie Adorea Marchand lived happily together for some thirty-five years, and this union was blessed with the following named children: Olive (Mrs. Alcide Gautreau); Pamela (Mrs. Douradou Braud); Elizabeth (Mrs. Julien Thomassie); Josephine (Mrs. Jos. Dupuy); Joseph, who married Felicite Bourgeois, founded the town of Gonzales, served as its mayor for many years, and held other public offices with distinction and honor; Alexander F.; Robert Lee, who married Felicia Savoy; Ogden, who married Maud Little; Cora (Mrs. Andrew Little); Sims H., who married Rosalie Acy. By a second marriage, the following named children were born: Florence; Edna Mary (Mrs. Aristide Hebert), and Josephine (Mrs. George Collins).



Joseph Gonzales, IV
Founder of the town of
Gonzales



Mrs. Felicite Bourgeois
Gonzales (Mrs. Joseph Gon-
zales, IV)

Thus, we find that the grandchildren of Rosalie Adorea Marchand, are as follows, based upon a list which may be incomplete: (Children of Mrs. Alcide Gautreau)—Aline, Elmira, Clarence, Percy, Lena and Lucille Gautreau. (Children of Mrs. Douradou Braud)—Morris, Blanche, Leo, Dolphy, Leah, Davis and Cora Braud. (Children of Mrs. Julien Thomassie)—Octavia, Juste, Octave, Edmond, Edward, Clarence, Evans, Eva, Ida and Emile Thomassie. (Children of Mrs. Jos. Dupuy) — Corrine, Claire, Edgar, George, Francis, Edward, Cecile and Lillian Dupuy. (Children of Joseph Gonzales, IV) — Felicie, Beatrice, Josephine, Ethel and Fanny Gonzales. A son, Joseph, remembered as "Jo Boy", died in infancy. (Children of R. L. Gonzales)—Rudolph and Dena Gonzales. (Children of Ogden Gonzales)—Whitney, Alton, Vernon Gonzales. (Children of Mrs. Cora Little)—Laura, William, Sidney, Andrew, Uriel Gonzales. (Children of Sims H. Gonzales)—William, Ogden, J. P., Beulah and Emmett Gonzales. Nearly all of the foregoing have children and grandchildren, so we find that the descendants of Rosalie Adorea Marchand run into the hundreds.



JOHN A. MARCHAND, I,
at age 10 years. Note
home- clothing, Photo made
in 1870.

PART IV AN ORPHAN



John A. Marchand, I

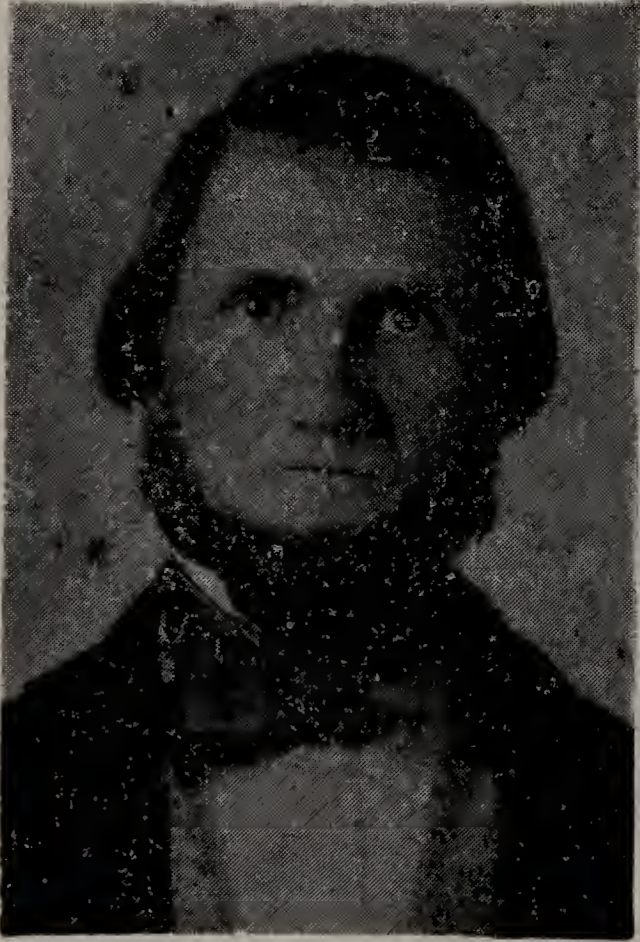
My father's mother died when he was four days of age; his baby sister, Marie Lydia, died when my father was five years of age, and only a few days subsequent to the death of this sister, my father's father, Joseph Alexander Marchand, passed away. Thus, in infancy, he was cast upon the world deprived of both his parents, as well as collateral relatives. The death of his mother, Magdeleine Octavie Landry, disrupted the family. In his letter, reproduced in another section of this book, my father states that when this calamity befell the family (the death of his mother), "I was turned over to an old 'granny' called 'Meme Phine', who lived on the Joachin Kling place on the Bluff. She was nursing, at the time, her own baby called 'Pat' (Fr. foot). In order to maintain the spark of life, necessity prompted me to partake of the food which 'Pat' enjoyed". It appears that when this young mother, Magdeleine Landry, died, little Marie Lydia, then less

than two years of age, was turned over to Mrs. Norbert Landry, or, as we always called her, "Grandma Norbert". She was Marie Lydia's grandmother. She remained with her grandmother to the date of her death, on October 26, 1867—when she was a little more than 7 years of age. If my memory serves me right, I think my father said that she died during a yellow fever epidemic. After Marie Lydia's death, the only members of the family remaining was her father, Joseph Alexander Marchand, and my father, John A. Marchand, I. However, in a very few days the Angel of Death re-visited the family, summoning the father, Joseph Alexander Marchand, to the grave on October 31, 1867, leaving my father as the sole and only remaining member of the family. At the age of five years he was made bereft of both parents—cast upon the world, dependent entirely upon relatives and friends for his general welfare. Prior to the death of his father, however, my father had already departed from the Dutchtown, La. region. Thus, he relates in his letter: "Upon arriving at the age of 4 years, J. Butler Gonzales, son of Miguel Gonzales, transported me by horseback from the 'Bluff' to his father's house at Galvez. His father had married my paternal grandmother. On this ride, I slept all the way, and when I awoke I saw the yellow ground of the Galvez section, and I knew that my first-love, the 'Bluff', was far away." The 'Bluff' which my father referred to, is that settlement which is situated two or three miles in a north-westerly direction from Dutchtown, Louisiana.

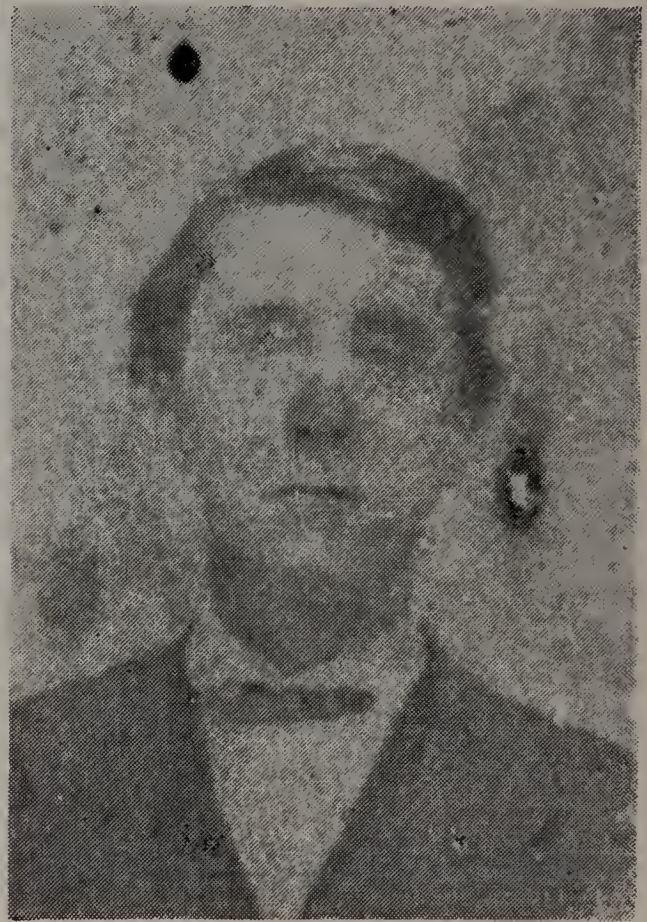
The old Miguel Gonzales home was situated on a beautiful spot at the junction of the Amite River and Bayou Manchac, Section No. 17. It later became known as the Cambre place. Fifteen years ago my father and I passed this old home of his; he surveyed the scene, and commented that the same trees then adorning the property were standing there when he was a small child.

My father, John A. Marchand, I, lived with his grandmother, Mrs. Marie Savoie Gonzales, at Galvez, for about five years, or until about 1871. Then he was transferred back to the Dutchtown, La. region—to the home

of his Godfather, Dumini LeBlanc, who, at the time, operated a store and small plantation on the site later occupied by Picard & Geismar. In Book No. 4, Reg. of Baptisms, p. 285 of Ascension church, we find that John A. Marchand, I, was Christened by Father M. Rubi, C. M., attached to Ascension Catholic church, and that Dumini LeBlanc was his Godfather, and Eliza Landry, his Godmother.



Miguel Gonzales



Dumini LeBlanc

To you, Messrs. Gonzales and LeBlanc, the descendants of John A. Marchand extend sincere thanks for the many kindnesses bestowed upon him between 1856 and 1876.

HE WAS NOW a young lad of 9 or 10 years of age, when his Godfather, Dumini LeBlanc, of Dutch Store, went to the home of Miguel Gonzales at Galvez, and brought the child to the LeBlanc home, in order that he could be sent to school. His departure from the Gonzales home cast sadness and gloom over the household. Mrs. Anderson McCrory, says that her mother, Marie Savoye, "took it awful hard; all of us cried for a week after he left." My father, John A. Marchand, was endowed with

a kind heart, a cheerful disposition and a friendly manner, and, knowing this, I can easily understand the cause of sadness which prevailed upon his departure. Upon reaching the home of Mr. LeBlanc, at Dutchtown, he donned his homemade suit and enrolled in the small public school there, where John A. Kernan taught a small group of youngsters. When a child my father was badly crippled, his right foot and ankle being completely twisted and distorted. However, the constant use of steel braces gradually corrected this condition, so that upon reaching manhood, this condition was barely noticeable.

About the year 1880, Dumini LeBlanc, lost his property and his business, and died in July 1881. My father continued to live with him, but he was now a young man 18 years of age. In August, 1882—now 20 years of age—he began working at Mr. Geismar's store, at New River Lane (now Geismar, La.). Later, his first cousin, Joseph Gonzales, advised him that John Crosley & Sons, who operated a store at Southwood plantation, one mile above Geismar, on the Mississippi river, had an opening for a store clerk at \$25.00 a month, plus board. Thereupon, my father, John A. Marchand, I, entered the employ of the Crosley establishment on May 1, 1883. He remained there continuously for 5½ years, leaving the firm in December, 1888. He had saved up \$550.00 by this time.

But, to revert to the period of his employment on the Geismar job, let us note that something very important happened; My father met my mother, Lorena Gertrude Carver.



John A. Marchand, I,
 Born: Jan. 27, 1862
 Married: June 16, 1885
 Died: Aug. 16, 1939



Lorena Gertrude Carver
 Born March 4, 1866
 Died March 23, 1927

IN THE YEAR 1882—almost seventy years ago—my mother, Lorena Gertrude Carver, then 16 years of age, was visiting her sister, Heloise (Mrs. Alexander Landry), on “Waterloo” plantation, at New River Lane (now Geismar). My father was a clerk in the Geismar store, and was just a few years older than my mother. It was probably the only store in the vicinity, and, of course, my mother and her sister, Heloise, visited the store to make purchases. My father waited on my mother, and Cupid went to work. Thereafter my mother’s brother, Hiram W.

Carver, became manager of Claiborne plantation store, on the west or opposite bank of the Mississippi, a few miles above Geismar. Naturally, my mother visited "Uncle Hiram", at Claiborne plantation. To the date of her death, she and "Uncle Hiram" always remained devoted to each other by strong ties of affection. Though now 89 years of age, he still plods along the highway of life, and lives at 419 Merritt Ave., at Oakland Calif. My father was transferred to Southwood plantation store, but he managed to call at Uncle Hiram's home during my mother's visits there. About the middle of June, 1885—66 years ago—he made a very important call there. After crossing the Father of Waters and reaching Claiborne, my father and "Uncle Hiram" drove via horse and buggy to White Castle, and then proceeded to Plaquemine by rail; reaching Plaquemine, a marriage license was obtained. On Tuesday, June 16, 1885, at the home of "Uncle Hiram", on Claiborne plantation, on the west bank of the Mississippi, about 13 miles above Donaldsonville, they were married by Father Dubernard, of the Bayou Goula Catholic church.

AS FAR AS is known, there are only two people alive today who were present at this wedding. Sic transit gloria mundi. Hiram W. Carver, a brother of the bride who was present at the wedding, and who is one of the two witnesses still living, in a letter addressed to me under date of November 19, 1941, says of the wedding:

"In 1885 I owned, together with my brother-in-law, Jno. A. Stevenson, the plantation store on Claiborne plantation, then owned by Jno. A. Stevenson. In the afternoon of June 16/85 your mother and father were married at my house by the Rev. Father Dubernard, of Bayou Goula, La. To the best of my recollection, there were present, my wife's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Sigur, two of their daughters, Ernestine & Helena (later Mrs. William H. Carver), my bros. Will (William H. Carver) & Tom (Thomas C. Carver), Mr. and Mrs. John A. Stevenson and my wife, Josephine & myself. After the marriage ceremony & reception your father and mother left for their new home across & on the east side of the Missis-

issippi river; he, like myself, was married by Father Dubernard & and we both married one day & went to work the next. So you can see that people in those days didn't go on honeymoons as they do now."

OCTAVE S. BROUSSARD, a first cousin of my father, John A. Marchand, I, who was also present at the wedding, and who is still alive at this date, residing at 1480 North Johnson St., New Orleans, La., under date of Nov. 20, 1941, wrote me the following in reference to the wedding:

"At that time I was eighteen years of age. I was working for J. L. Brent, on the 'Bowden' plantation (7 miles above Darrow on the Mississippi) making sugar barrels, while your father was employed in the Southwood store (one mile above Geismar, La.). As I distinctly recall, often I would saddle my horse, whose name was 'Button', and horseback I would go to the store to see your Papa. One day while there your Papa told me of his approaching marriage, and invited me to his wedding.

"So the day before the wedding was to take place I went up to the store (Southwood plantation) and stayed all night with him. Mr. Palmer, who was running the store, called us for supper that night. It will interest you to know that this being the pre-wedding supper, what it consisted of—we had a little saucer of blackberries, with sugar, and a cup of tea and crackers.

"The next morning we got up early, and, if I remember correctly, did not have any breakfast. We proceeded immediately to the Mississippi river, and, via skiff across its muddy waters, to where the wedding was to take place.

"The wedding was only a family affair, with a few intimate friends present. After the wedding ceremony we all remained around the house. In a while the wedding dinner was served to all the relatives and friends present.

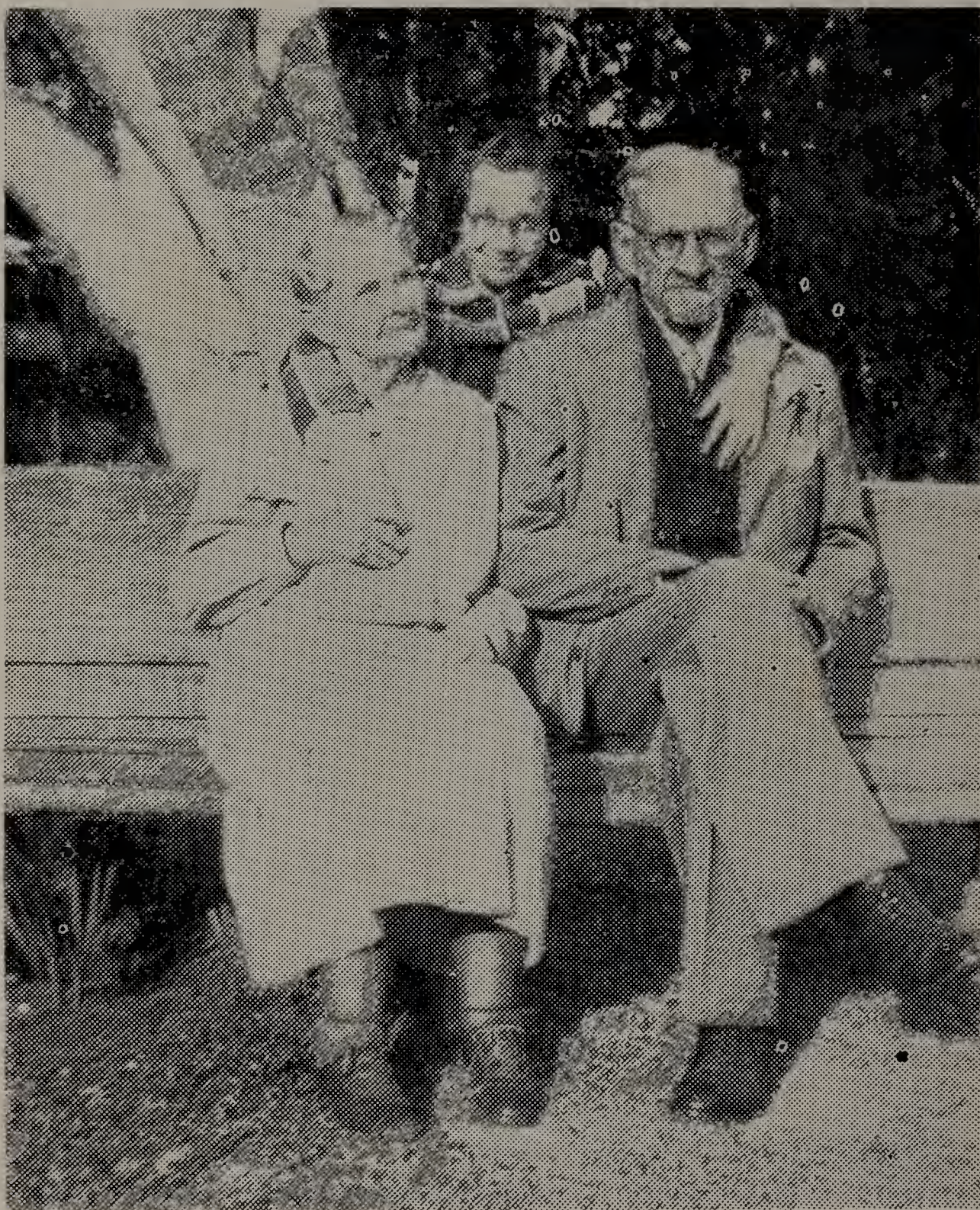
"In the late afternoon of that same day, I accompanied the bride and groom on their honeymoon skiff ride over the Mississippi river to the little home your Papa had rented for \$6.00 a month near Southwood.



Manchac Mail Stage, 1805

"Upon reaching the little home an old colored woman had prepared and ready for us a chicken supper. After supper I got back on my horse and returned to 'Bowden' plantation, to my boarding place at Desire Braud's. This just about covers the little light that I can shed on the wedding of . . . Mr. and Mrs. John Alcide Marchand, on Tuesday, June 16, 1885.

"Octave S. Broussard"



O. S. Broussard and his wife, Annie Duncan, and their granddaughter, Lynne Ann Herrmann on the Broussard's 60th wedding anniversary.

MY FATHER, John A. Marchand, I, the groom, in a letter to his children, dated July 11, 1937, reproduced herein, says of his wedding to my mother, Lorena Gertrude Carver:

"Uncle Hiram and I drove to White Castle, La. by horse and buggy, thence by rail to Plaquemine, to pro-

cure my marriage license. This was in June, 1885. A few days thereafter (June 16, 1885), the Bayou Goula priest (Father Dubernard) came down and married us on the Claiborne plantation, Cannon post office, La. Octave S. Broussard, J. E. Moseman, Lena Moseman, Mrs. Sam Burnett (Ernestine Sigur), Willie Carver, Hiram W. Carver, Mrs. Goldstein, Mrs. Vitedo (a ventriloquist) and others, whose names I cannot recall, were present. Uncle Hiram gave us a big spread. At this time, I was working in the Southwood store, and in order to be present at Claiborne (on the opposite bank of the river) for my wedding, I had to arise before day-break. William Fowler, an old Southwood darkey, rowed the skiff about five miles upstream to Gueymard, thence across the Mississippi to Claiborne. In the afternoon of our wedding day, the bride and groom, accompanied by Octave S. Broussard, embarked upon our wedding trip, in a skiff propelled by William Fowler, to Southwood plantation. We were indeed so very happy



Mrs. John A. Marchand (right), Lydia E.,
(center) and Evie Theresa Marchand.

that the skiff served well the place of a palatial yacht.

“We lived happily together from that date—June 16, 1885—to March 23, 1927, when your mother was summoned to her Eternal Reward”.

MY FATHER, John A. Marchand, I, now 23 years of age, had a wife and a job in a plantation store. A house in which to place his bride was the next requirement. However, my father had already attended to that, as he explains, “I had previously rented a small cottage of four rooms (situated about one mile above Southwood) from the Dreyfus family at \$6.00 per month.” He and my mother occupied this cottage until about April, 1886, by which time Theogene (Choke) Braud, father-in-law of my good friend, L. Bertin Duplessis, of Darrow, La.; and Dorcini Dubois, father of Emile, Louis and Ida Dubois, had completed the job of renovating a small cottage on the southwest corner of Riverside plantation, on the river road. Its dimensions were about 20' by 20', divided into



John A. and John Clement
Marchand, and Mrs. Leona
S. Marchand



F. Harold and Sidney A.
Marchand, Sr.

three rooms. My father relates that it was "somewhat better than a plantation cabin, probably a watchman's house." In this cottage my parents lived from April, 1886 to December, 1888. My brother, John A. Marcand, II, and I were born in this little cottage on Riverside plantation.



Edmond P. Bourgeois and Malvina Savoie Bourgeois

PART VI

FORTUNE AWAITS US IN THE PINELANDS



John A. Marchand, I
1939

THE YAZOO & MISSISSIPPI Valley began operating its trains on December 25, 1883; these trains passed through Southwood plantation where my father, John A. Marchand, I, worked. Everyone yearned to take a Sunday trip, and my father was no exception. During the year 1888 he made such a trip to New Orleans, and, on this trip, met a Mr. Terry from Ponchatoula. He offered to rent my father a small store building, with living quarters in the rear, in the booming town of Ponchatoula for the modest sum of \$8.00 per month. I do not know what my father knew about Ponchatoula, but my guess is that he knew very little. However, the proposition seemed so attractive that on his return to Southwood he contacted his first cousin, Octave S. Broussard, and Alexander Landry. Evidently they were interested, and all agreed to pool their resources—my father \$550, and the others \$275 each. The group went to Kenner, La. and from there to Ponchatoula on the Illinois Central. After seeing and inspecting

the proffered site they were convinced that “here lies our Golden Opportunity”. Shortly thereafter, the group of three went to New Orleans and bought a stock of goods amounting to about \$1,000 from B. H. Flaspoller’s Sons

and Jaubert Brothers. They operated this store for about a year—to about October, 1889, but seeing that the small amount of business done would not be profitable to the three, they “gradually sold out and quit buying”. My father told me, if my memory serves me correctly, that the small stock on hand was divided between the three of them when they finally closed shop. The Ponchatoula venture had not met their expectations, and they returned to Ascension parish.

When my father left Southwood plantation in December, 1888, and particularly the little home where I was born, he departed therefrom permanently, nevermore to return.

It was while they were operating their little store in Ponchatoula that Octave Broussard met his future wife, Annie Duncan. They were married on January 28, 1891, and recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Their present home is 1480 North Johnson Street, New Orleans. Among their children we find Sidney O., Natalie, Vivian, Myrtle (Mrs. Al. Winklmeier) and Hazel (Mrs. Charles C. Herrmann), with one grandchild, Lynne Ann Herrmann. A child, May Lucille, was born on June 1, 1904; died Nov. 4, 1913.

PART VII

OUR HOME AT THE PRAIRIE

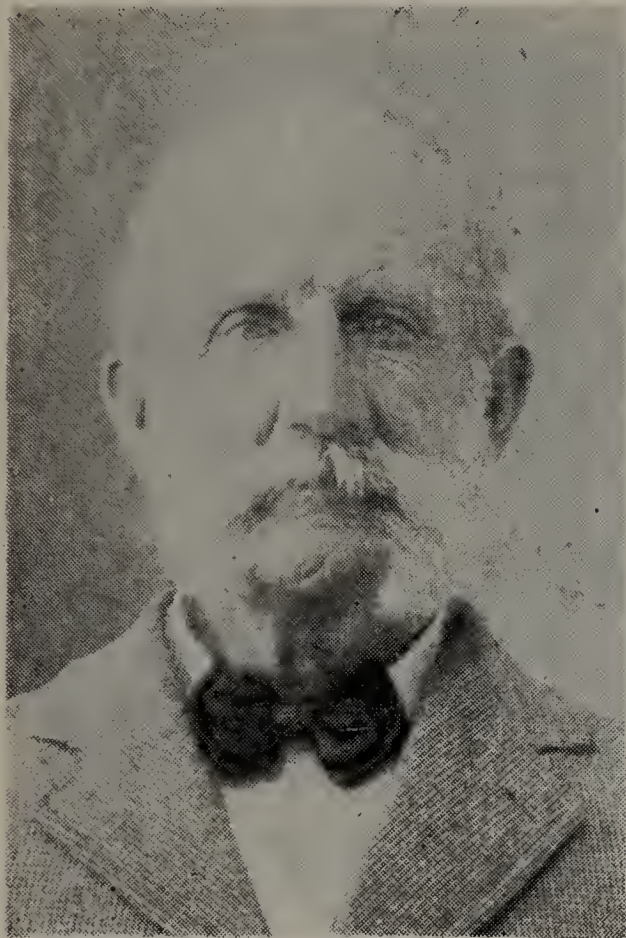


House of Marchand at the Prairie, 1951

UPON LEAVING PONCHATOULA—about October, 1889—my father, John A. Marchand, I, with his wife and two infants, returned to Prairieville, Louisiana. He was then 27 years of age; my mother was 25; my brother, John, was 2 years 6 months, and I was one year ten months of age. Both my parents, long afterwards, related to me how critically ill my mother and I were when we reached the home of my father's aunt, Mrs. Edward Felix Babin, in Dutchtown, La., about October, 1889. We spent about three weeks at the home of Mrs. Babin, where Dr. Caruth made a number of calls. On our departure from the home of Mrs. Babin we took refuge in our own little home at Prairieville, a photograph of which is reproduced herein.

My father, on October 5, 1887, had purchased from Mrs. Veloir Babin, his first cousin, for \$400 on terms, the improvements and settlement right on the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 2, Township 9 south, range 2 east, at Prairieville, Louisiana. He afterwards ac-

quired a patent for this land. (See C. B. 34, fo. 83; C. B. 39, fo. 311). On October 7, 1902, subsequent to our removal to Gonzales, he sold this property to Willie Delaune, and thereafter we always referred to the property as the "Wille Delaune" place. It is situated only a short distance, in a northwesterly direction, from St. John's Catholic church, at Prairieville, Louisiana.



Edward Felix Babin



Cecile Eugenie Landry
(Mrs. E. F. Babin)

1291200

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Babin, for kindness rendered in 1889.

My earliest recollections of this mundane sphere date from the happy childhood days spent at Prairieville. I have no recollection of life on Southwood, nor Riverside, nor Ponchatoula. I was born on Monday, December 5, 1887, and, my father states, that we moved into the Prairieville home about October, 1889, so I was less than two years of age when I first slept at this hallowed spot. Our modest little home did not front on any road, dirt or otherwise, but a little trail or cow-path skirted along the

western edge of the dismal forest, passed by our home, and proceeded in a northwesterly direction to the home of Enamel, Fergus and Gustave Landry, who lived nearby. The home of my childhood, wherein our little family took refuge in October, 1889, is still standing, as of Sunday, March 4, 1951, when I re-visited the place.



House of Marchand at the Prairie, 1951

In 1839 its location was more secluded than it is today—the woods in front of it were thicker. Those traveling along the Dutchtown-Prairieville-Big Swamp dirt road got but a “peek” at our little home in the '90s. When the quiet evenings had turned into twilight and night, our place of abode was wrapped in silence, beauty and inky darkness. No electric lights were in that portion of the country; Donaldsonville was still using coal-oil street lamps, and the only lights we saw at Prairieville were the gleams of candle-lights and coal-oil lamps of our very few neighbors. Notwithstanding the fact that almost sixty years have elapsed since then, I can still hear the “hoot, hoot” of the owls which inhabited our woodlands. In the early mornings of our springs and summers, the scene was truly one of indescribable beauty—a veritable wonderland, a paradise. How little we understand and appreciate

the indescribable beauties of Nature! Lux in Tenebris lucet, et tenebrae eam non comprehenderunt.. With the advent of night, the scene became awe-inspiring, dark, dreary and lonesome.

My brother, John A. Marchand, II, was born on April 19, 1886, and my sister, Earline Mary, was born here on May 31, 1890. The first neighbor towards the south was kind-hearted Sam Landry, who lived about 4 acres distant; in a northwesterly direction, about the same distance, lived "Cousin Gustave" Landry; and a short distance away in a southeasterly direction lived our good neighbor and friend, Trasimond Berteau.



House of Marchand at the Prairie, 1951. On the porch (left to right) J. William Dupuy, Mrs. Lillian Ambeau Dupuy, Mrs. Lydia Marchand Coroy, Anne Marie Marchand and Sidney A. Marchand, III.

At night, our mother lit the little coal-oil lamp and we sat around and talked, but all of us, John, Earline, Harold and I, sought rest—and found it—in a little trundle bed, which our mother hauled out each night from its place under a larger bed. Miss Lucille Berteau (now Mrs. J. Yve Landry), a daughter of our good neighbor, Trasimond Berteau, frequently rocked us to sleep,

singing songs only a child can understand and appreciate.

The year following our removal to Prairieville (1890) my father taught school in a very small one-room building, in a deplorable condition, at \$30 per month. How he managed to feed and clothe his little flock on this salary is a mystery to me. We were indeed very poor, but somehow it seems that all of us were happy and contented.



Earline Mary Marchand
Born May 31, 1890;
Died December 9, 1917



Earline Marchand and
Sidney A. Marchand, I.
age 3 years

On the day of the birth of my sister, Earline, May 31, 1890, I fell from a persimmon tree, while looking at a baseball game and sustained injuries which rendered me unconscious for several hours; and for a day or so my life was despaired of. I was less than 3 years old at the time, but, somehow, I have a clear recollection of the fall from the persimmon tree.

Things must have been desperate during the year 1891 also, for, in this year, as stated by my father, he made one bale of cotton, some potatoes, melons, etc. An old darkey named "Cole" worked our place at the Prairie. I

recall that a little later my father offered us 10cts a row to hoe the cotton. On Saturday night we presented our bills and exhibited the "rows" of hoed cotton. It required but little cash to pay off the laborers.

In August, 1892, my father, John A. Marchand, I, began working for Gonzales Brothers (Joseph and Alex), at Gonzales, Louisiana, leaving his little tribe, during the week, to remain in the old home behind the woods. John, Jr. was now about 6, I was 5, and Earline was an infant of two years of age. I recall how, when darkness approached, our little clan—my mother was now 26 years of age—"dug in" our little home for the night, hoping and praying that no harm would befall us ere tomorrow's sun would burst over the woodlands. One night, almost sixty years ago, my mother heard what she thought was



Woods in front of the House
of Marchand at the Prairie.
Anne Marie and Sidney A.
Marchand, III

a prowler, pulling at our doors. She immediately grabbed a small revolver, which she kept at hand, and fired a shot

aimlessly into the darkness. Our neighbors, Sam Landry and Trasimond Berteau, responded instantly, and made a thorough inspection of the premises, but found no trace of the intruder.

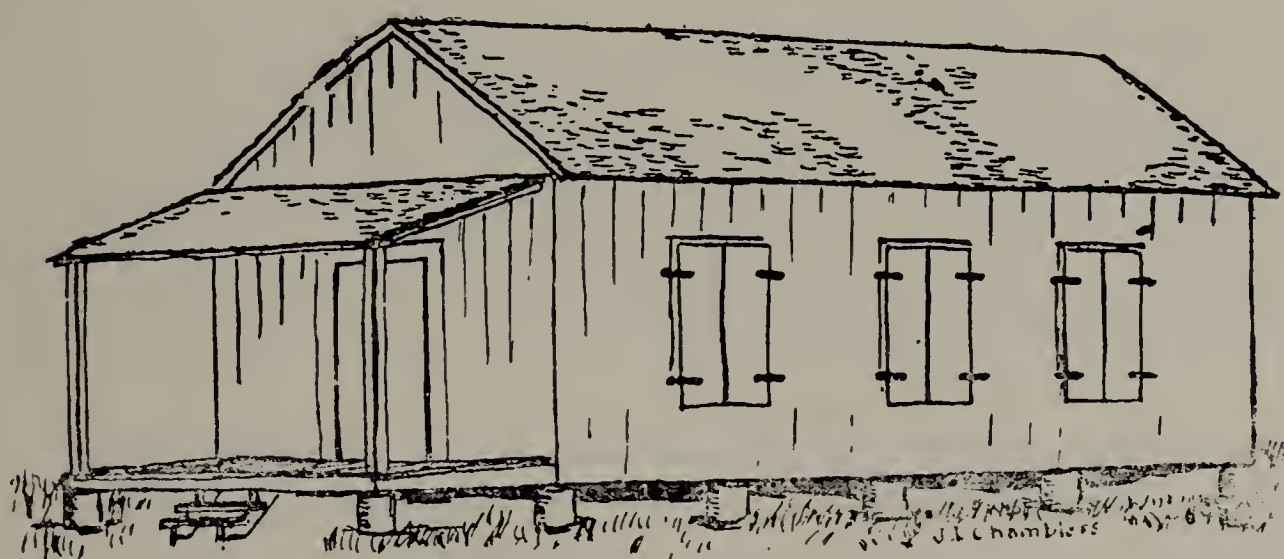
At a small chapel at Prairieville, at infrequent intervals, Mass was celebrated. As the years passed, my father acquired a small pony barely large enough to pull the second-hand buggy which he also acquired. Thereafter, on Sundays we travelled some seven miles to the Corner-view Catholic church, the only Catholic church, with a resident priest, in east Ascension parish. It was quite an experience, in our young lives, to take a trip to Corner-view, Louisiana. Everyone for miles around, came to church on horseback, on foot and by buggy and surrey. After Mass was over we followed the crowd along the dusty road, returning to Prairieville. The young men of that day were very proud of their horses, and frequently we witnessed thrilling horse-races along the Dutchtown straightaway road.

My brother, Frank Harold Marchand, was born at Napoleonville, (while my mother was visiting her sister there), on November 22, 1891. Though a very small child at the time, he, too, underwent the experiences I have mentioned.

I recall that, while we were living at Prairieville, the flood waters of a great crevasse covered the entire New River country, in east Ascension parish. This must have been the "Rescue" crevasse, which occurred in the summer of 1893. Residents of the entire New River basin were flooded by roaring waters from 6 to 8 feet in depth. I recall very distinctly that "Cousin Joe" Gonzales, (founder of the town of Gonzales), a first cousin of my father, with his wife and children, Felicie, Beatrice, Josephine, Fanny and Ethel, sought and found refuge in our little home at Prairieville—beyond the reach of the floodwaters. They camped with us for several weeks, and while we were somewhat "cooped-up" like chickens, we were, at least, high and dry. After a few weeks, the flood-

waters abated, and the Gonzales family returned to their home at Gonzales.

Clearly do I recall the mid-week visits of my father when he was operating a peddling cart for Gonzales Brothers. On each Saturday night, we patiently awaited his arrival. He walked from Gonzales to Prairieville through the woods of the Calebasse section, and brought a supply of groceries on his back. Never were the kids forgotten; cakes and candies were always a part of the cargo.



Prairieville School House, 1895

At Prairieville, my mother sent the kids to the little one-room school house. I cannot recall when my father taught there, but I recall, as my first teacher, Mr. Walter



Walter C. Kernan, Teacher

C. Kernan, who died in 1950, a very old man. During one year, we attended the Dutchtown Academy, which was, by far, the largest, and, I think, the only high school in east Ascension. The building was a square box-like structure, surrounded by a gallery on all four sides. Leon I. McCain was principal, and the other teachers were Misses Nannie Modrall and Leah Blouin. Each morning our small group left the Prairie on a dusty country road, and walked the three miles to school. There were no school busses in those days.

While my father did not sell the old home place to Willie Delaune until October 7, 1902, for some reason, we departed from it several years prior to that date. It may be that Mr. Delaune rented the place several years before he bought; or Vintress Babin may have been working the place, and living in the house. Of this, I am not sure. However, prior to our removal to Gonzales, we moved into the home of the widow of Dr. McMillan, at Prairieville, about one mile north of the Catholic church, on the road to "Big Swamp" or Oak Grove. We occupied the house jointly with the McMillan's, and enjoyed the companionship of Willie, Calvin and Beulah McMillan. I distinctly recall that my grandfather, Hiram H. Carver, visited us while we lived in the McMillan house. Grandpa Carver died on Sept. 9, 1903, at Crowley, where he is buried.

In those days (1889-96) the only store at Prairieville was the establishment of Mrs. Leontine Lamar Landry (Mrs. Richard Landry), which stood at a point about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of the Catholic church, on the Big Swamp road, and on the same side of the road as the church. J. Prudent Landry's home now occupies the site of the Landry store and home. Mrs. Richard Landry had two fine sons, Wayne and Hercules. They were very intelligent, fairly well educated for their ages, and all of us considered them "wise guys", but we liked them very much. I recall that many years ago, Hercules invented an ironing board and a sky-rocket holder, which, to all of us, put him in the same class

as Thomas A. Edison. He also operated a small print shop, and explained to me how profitable it was. To the best of my recollection, this was the first time I had ever witnessed a printing press operate. Of course, all of us thought it marvelous. As the years passed, both Wayne and Hercules went to New Orleans to live, and remained there permanently.

My recollection is quite distinct of a small bon-fire which the Landry boys built near their mother's store. It seems that on this particular occasion they were testing the explosive propensities of gun-powder. They brought a small container filled with gunpowder, and approached the fire on the road-side. In some unaccountable manner the entire contents of the can were spilled upon the fire. A terrific flash explosion resulted, burning Wayne (as I recall it) very badly. I think Hercules escaped injury, but Wayne bore mute witness of this incident for many years.

A night spent at the home of Mrs. Vileor Babin, on the "Bluff", more than fifty-five years ago, is also distinctly recalled. For some reason or other, I accepted their invitation to spend the night with their fine group of children. They treated me wonderfully, and tried to entertain me to such an extent that I would not cry for my mother. The "Bluff" is indeed a very pretty place, and they pointed out the beauties of nature, as well as the birds, animals and barnyard fowl. I assented to all this, and admitted that it was very pretty and interesting, but when darkness settled over the "Bluff" I wept and wailed and wanted to return home. After lots of consoling, I entered slumberland, and slept soundly throughout the night. The next morning, at day-break, I was ready and anxious to begin my trek back home. Their son led me a part of the way, until I could see the roof of our little home through the woods, and, thereafter, I speeded home alone. Mrs. Babin presented me with a load of vegetables to take to my mother, but, in order to accelerate my speed, I "dumped" half the cargo into the woods, and kept running faster and faster.

Once—may be twice—each week, a mud-spattered, horseback mail rider carried the mail from New River post office (now Geismar, La.) out to Port Vincent, via Prairieville. The post office was in Mrs. Richard Landry's store, where, on mail days, a small group of country folk assembled, joked, gossipped, whittled sticks and patiently awaited the arrival of the mail-rider. Frequent checks were made on the road towards Dutchtown, as the mailman would come from that direction. A very few folks received a very little mail, but all were made happy on the receipt of news from the outside world.

Thus passed away the weeks, months, years, while we played marbles, climbed trees, picked berries, hunted the cherished muscadine vines, and, generally, took things easy. We gave little thought to the cares of the outer world, and envied not the lot of those who had much. But the day finally came when our little group—my mother and the children—removed from Prairieville, and left our home at the Prairie to establish our new home on New River, at Gonzales, Louisiana.



Old post-office building,
Gonzales.

PART VIII

OUR HOME ON NEW RIVER



Our Home on New River

Reconstructed on the site of the Beauregard Gautreau house.

I WAS A CHILD nine years of age when my father, John A. Marchand, I, removed his little family from Prairieville to the banks of New River, at Gonzales. The year was 1896, and the price of cotton, the principal crop of the farmers, was very low. In those days a great crop of cotton was produced each year by the farmers of the New River country. Of course, there were other crops, but "King Cotton" reigned as supreme leader throughout the land. In Gonzales, within a few hundred feet of each other, stood the "Lena B." gin of the Gonzales Brothers, and the "Rescue" gin of Picard and Geismar. The "Lena B." gin was named in honor of Lena B. Bullion, a daughter of General O. A. Bullion, C. S. A., and the "Rescue" gin was named in memory of the Rescue crevasse. The site of the former was later subdivided into lots 3 and 4, block 6, of the village of Gonzales; while the latter was situated

on the north side of the bayou, almost opposite the residence of Joseph Gonzales, and slightly further upstream. A friendly spirit of rivalry prevailed between these two gins, and Joseph Gonzales, owner of the "Lena B.", struggled night and day, waving his arms wildly, trying to maintain a lead over the "Rescue".



New River citizens en route to watch the levee about 1905.

The rivalry continued until the boll-weevil arrived, destroyed the cotton crops, and consequently, the gins. At times, these gins operated night and day in a race to catch up with the long line of waiting farm wagons heavily laden with unginned cotton. At times the farmers had to wait several hours before they could get under the suction pipes, which removed the contents of their wagons to the ginning machines up-stairs. Of course, the farmers fumed, complained and chided Jos Gonzales at the delay, but, as a general rule, all went well. Even though ginned cotton sold at 10 cts per pound (\$50 for a 500 lb. bale), everyone—particularly the children—made a little change picking cotton. Below St. Amant we had the Sam B. Barman gin, another at Dutchtown for Picard & Geismar, and still another for the same firm at Geismar.

Bros. at Burnside, and others, throughout the eastern portion of Ascension parish, operated cotton gins.

When my father first moved to Gonzales, in 1896, we found two stores there: Gonzales Brothers, on the south bank of New River (later lot 1, Blk. 6); and Picard & Geismar, on the north bank of New River, opposite the "Beauregard Gautreau house" hereinafter mentioned. The town of Gonzales had not been subdivided, and the banks of New River were lined with trees; homes were few and far apart. Vincent T. Landry, son of Paul Landry, a pioneer merchant in this section, was the owner of the greater portion of the western part of what is now Gonzales; Henry Parker owned the greater portion of the east half of the town. Both of these tracts are south of New River.

I have a vague recollection of the Henry Parker home which stood, as I recall it, near the present site of the Baptist church. My impression is, that in 1896, his home was the only home on his 80-acre tract. Below Henry Parker on the south side of New River, was the home of a gentleman of the old school, Abe Wright, the father of Lester E. Wright. Further down New River, came the home of Dr. John R. Fridge and that of John M. Lusk, pioneer justice of the peace. The latter's home was a log structure, with a beautiful interior. West of what is now Burnside street, in section 29, we found, proceeding up New River, the Lena B. gin, store of Gonzales Brothers, home of Jos Gonzales, home of Vincent T. Landry, home of Mrs. Paul Landry, home of Beauregard Gautreau, home of Mrs. Adlard Gautreau, and still further up New River, the homes of Cleophas Bourque, Dorcini Dubois, Lawrence Dubois. West of the Burnside-Little Prairie road—north of New River—(this road was not opened until years later) we found the home of Gille Gautreau, "Rescue" gin, Picard and Geismar's store, home of Jos. Picard (later occupied by Edward Smith, fine citizen), the homes

of Jos. Lanoux, Simon Lanoux. C. Daniel Blouin was also on this side farther up the bayou.

Below the Burnside road, north of New River was the Adolphe Braud home (still standing) and further down stream, the "Achille Le Blanc" home, which was the first house we occupied when we came to Gonzales in 1896. A short distance eastwardly, in the woods, was the home of J. Evariste LeBlanc. In Carencro, we found the homes of J. D. (Minet) Elisar, Alexis LeBlanc, Polinaire Gautreau, Lee Hamilton, Jimmie Lanoux, Alcide Lanoux, Thomas Loupe, Jules Arceneaux, Tebeuse Gaudin, father of Louis and Charles, and others whose names I do not now recall. Throughout the various interior sections, we found the modest homes of worthy citizens, some being built in the forests with the trees surrounding them.



New River Lane, 1918

THE ONLY OUTLET for these pioneer settlers to reach the Mississippi River was New River lane. While the "Lane" was at times a horrible mud road, it was the Canal street of 1896. Wagons, buggies, jumpers and horseback riders all had to go through "the Lane" to get to the Mississippi river. Between 1896 and 1902 the trail through Carencro and Conway sections, to Burnside, was established. It was gradually straightened out, but was a

horrible road—enough black-jack mud to bog a jacksnipe. There were no electric lights, telephones, railroads, paved or gravel highways, nor any of the conveniences known to us in 1951. The only school in Gonzales, public or private, was a one-room school, situated on what is now lots 5 and 6, block 5. Miss Pauline Frankfort, of New Orleans, and Miss Carrie Cleneay, of Maurepas, taught the group of youngsters.

TO THE BEST of my recollection, the first house we occupied when we reached Gonzales, in 1896, was a little cottage which Joseph Gonzales had built for my father, and which was situated north of New River at the extreme eastern portion of his lands—(about lots 7 & 8, block C, as later subdivided). It was a small house, but we were happy to be re-united at Gonzales; my father with us each day. Achille LeBlanc later acquired this house, and, thereafter, we always referred to it as the "Achille LeBlanc house". We lived in this little cottage several years. I distinctly recall the old log across the bayou which we used daily to go over to the south side. It was while we lived in this cottage that my grandfather, Hiram H. Carver, visited us. This was the last time my mother and I ever saw him, for he died in 1903, in Crowley, La., where he is buried. I recall that a friend of his presented him with a fine young puppy. Grandpa named him "Bum", and he was very proud of the puppy. One day "Bum" used very poor judgment—he bit Grandpa's hand. "Bum" was passed on to some friend who accepted him.

It seems that Grandpa and Joseph Gonzales were both very active in local political campaigns, and they were always arrayed on different sides. In their denunciations of each other they were somewhat vitriolic or caustic.

AT THE LITTLE schoolhouse mentioned above, I enjoyed the companionship of a fine little group, some of them being Ulysse and Estress Braud, Louis and Ida Dubois, Allen Landry, Florian Gautreau, Leon Gautreau, who was killed in the first World War, Colomb, Felician

and Lucien Gautreau, children of Mr. C. Narcisse Gautreau, Warren, Leslie and Andrew LeBlanc. Built of upright boards, in a horrible state of repair, it was the only school in Gonzales, and was ruled by Miss Pauline Frankfort and, later by Miss Carrie Cleneay.

AS A YOUNG CHAP I worked in the store of Gonzales Brothers (later lots 1 & 2, block 6), where a small amount of business was done. Alexander F. Gonzales remained in the store, while Joseph Gonzales attended to the gin and field operations. Joseph Gonzales walked rapidly, waved his arms and appeared under stress when he talked, walked or argued. He and my father were first cousins, and my father was always quiet, calm, easy-going, patient and in a jovial mood. I can see him in my



John A. Marchand, Jr., on the Banks of New River, 1912

mind's eye, walking the streets of Gonzales, at a slow pace, with his head bowed, smoking a small pipe.

ON MARCH 7, 1900, my father, John A. Marchand, I, bought the old "Beauregard Gautreau home", 35 acres in the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 29, Tp. 9 S., R. 3 East, from Dr. T. E. Moss. (C. B. 41, fo. 188). Dr. Moss, a physician who hailed from Kentucky, had practiced in Gonzales a short while, but decided to return to his home state. At about the turn of the century, when the 19th was expiring and the 20th came into view, we left the "Achille LeBlanc" house, and moved into our own home, the "Beauregard Gautreau" house, where Lydia Marchand Coroy now resides.

IT WAS ABOUT 1900 when Joseph Gonzales sent me to Burnside for some purpose. I was furnished "transportation" in the "person" of "Kate", a huge mule, of Civil War days. I mounted "Kate", turned her southward, and through the trails of Carencro and Conway we began our journey towards Burnside. Kate was powerful, but the roads at Bradford's quarters, south of Bayou Conway, were too much for her. She sank in the mud up to her belly, fell over, throwing me into the quagmire, and great effort was required to extricate ourselves.

I RECALL THE boxing matches we indulged in: Ulysse Braud, Dennery and Rudolph Picard, myself and many others. We had lots of fun, even though some of the punches were rather hard.

MY FATHER, John A. Marchand, I, was first appointed post-master at Gonzales, in 1904, and, shortly thereafter, he had Theogene (Choke) Braud and Ulger (Shoon) Bourque, fine citizens, friends and neighbors, build a little post-office building in front (slightly northwest) of the "Beauregard Gautreau" house, now our home.

The three boys, John, Harold and myself, by this time thought that we were big enough and old enough to get out and get jobs, a real job, say, \$5 per month and board.

THUS PASSED away the years at Gonzales, and we struck out "on our own".



Store of Blunt and Broussard, Cornerview, La., 1895

PART IX

ON OUR OWN



Store of O. S. Broussard & Co., Darrow, 1906

OCTAVE S. BROUSSARD, a first cousin of my father, on January 17, 1901, acquired from Ellis Nasif the contents of his store at Darrow, Louisiana. (C. B. 41, 10. 585). He was present at my father's wedding on June 16, 1885, and our family and "Cousin Octave's" family have always been close. Several months after Mr. Broussard opened his store in Darrow, that is, about July, 1901, I departed from Gonzales and began work in Broussard's "Home of Low Prices".

The Broussard store was on the east side of the ramp over which the vehicular traffic, going to and from the ferry, passed. The store faced west, and in our rear was the livery stable of Robert E. Lanoux, where horses and buggies might be rented. On the west side of the ramp, hugging the levee, was the livery stable of Herman B. Landry, a splendid gentleman, the father of Euclid A.,

Clarence, Conrad, Oneil and Miss Haydee Landry, and grandfather of Etta A. Landry. Landry's stable faced east, while "Bob" Lanoux's faced south. Across the road from Landry's stable (north) was the drug and general store of Lucien W. Armitage. Half a century has elapsed since then, but vague pictures of the old citizens remain with me. Towards the rear of town, only a few blocks distant, was the home of Dr. E. A. Raymond, polite colored citizen who was respected by all. Besides Mr. Landry and his family, I recall Mr. Baptiste Boudreaux, fine old gentleman, and father of Rev. Jos. J. Boudreaux, fine old gentleman (Sister Rapheal, O. S. B.). The Edmond Marchand family—Eva, Lawrence, Dolphy, Dudley, et als—lived up the road a short distance. The Wintz girls—Allie, Carrie, Mamie—frequently visited their aunt, Mrs. L. W. Armitage. The Walker girls—Maybelle, Florence, Pauline—frequently visited Mrs. Cale Chapman. Then there was the Serre family, Rene, Marie and others. Many of them have long since gone to their reward. Among the colored



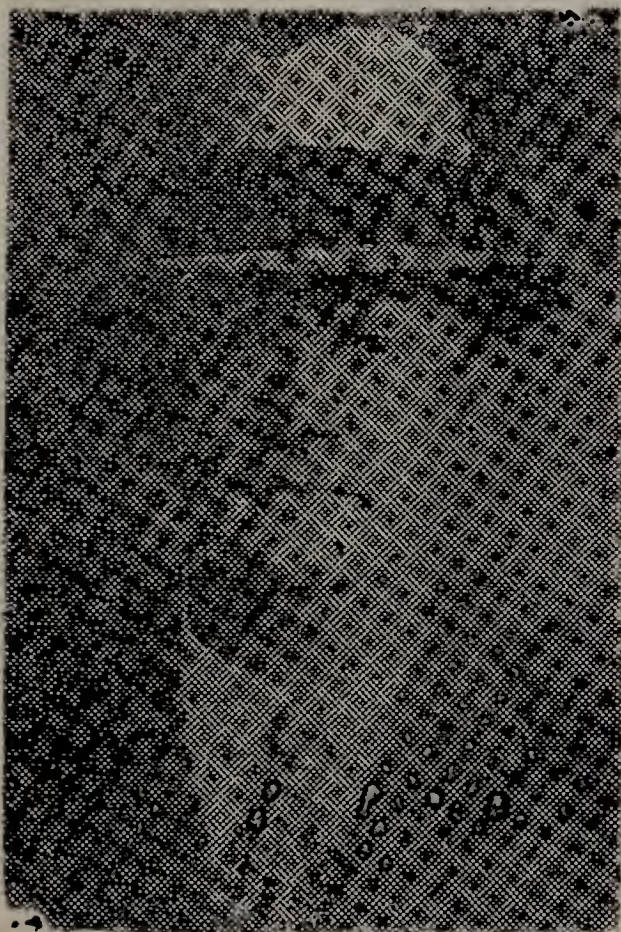
Sidney A. Marchand, I,
in 1912.

citizens I recall are: Rev. Jim Robertson, John Brown, J. Alfred LeBlanc, Jim Gordon, Leon Baptiste, Lucinda Dennis, Effie Kennix, Effie Alexander, and many others.

MY SALARY WAS \$5. per month, plus board. I was

13½ years of age, and the pay was "adequate" for the services I performed. Each morning, around daybreak, Sidney O. Broussard, son of the proprietor, would summon us to arise from our resting place. All of the clerks (different ones at different times) complained at the early morning calls, but took everything in stride.

THIS WAS THE first time I had left my parents, and the loneliness and homesickness were terrific. Mr. and Mrs. Broussard treated us fine and made life as agreeable as possible. Each morning we opened the doors, swept out, went to the ferry "Acension", operated by Constantin & Braggard, to get the bread and began waiting on the early morning customers. On Sundays when the store was not open, we came to Donaldsonville or went out to Gonzales to see our folks.



Vic P. Mire, one of the
Broussard clerks, 1905



F. Harold Marchand and
Sydney Lynn LeBlanc

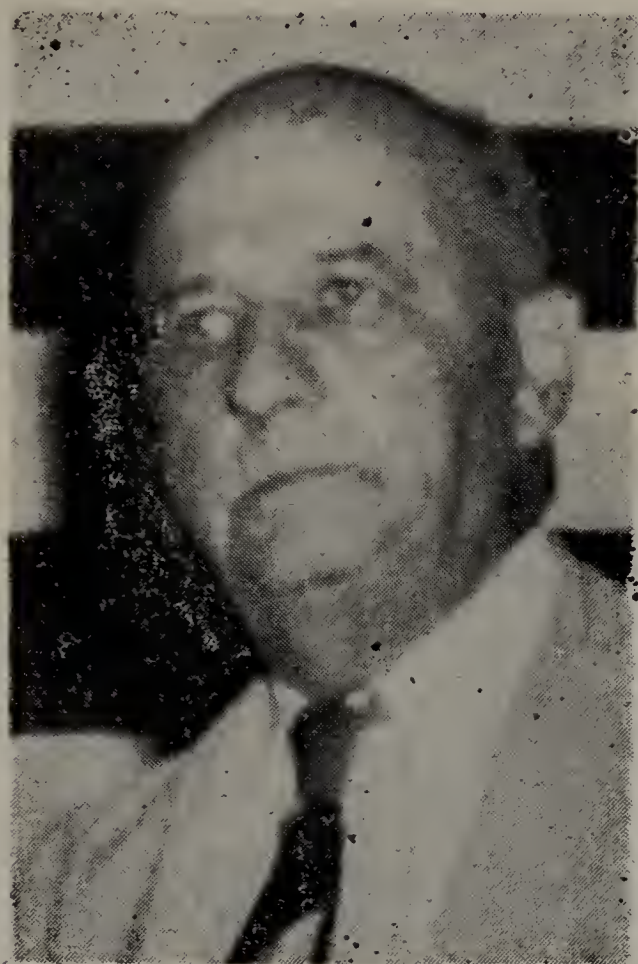
I MANAGED SOMEHOW to overcome the loneliness of being away from home, and remained with Mr. Broussard about one year, then I left, and returned again, and

left a second time, and thereafter returned. In the intervening years, I held various jobs, among them being with Singer Sewing Machine Agent, Sherman V. Coriell. I was with Mr. Coriell, at broken intervals, about a year. Mr. Coriell hailed from Battle Creek, Mich., and he was at all times, a splendid friend and fellow-man. The years passed away, and in 1907 and the first part of 1908, I was again with Octave S. Broussard, my salary having been increased to \$30 per month, plus board and lodging. I was now 19 or 20 years of age, and I pondered considerably on the kind of work that I would like. The thought struck me that I'd like to read law, and, maybe, some day become a lawyer. One day while riding a bicycle on the ferry ramp at Darrow I chanced to see Mr. G. Adolph Gondran, then district attorney, who was en route to visit his brother, C. Desire Gondran, at Belle Helene. I introduced myself to Mr. Gondran, advised him of my aspirations, and asked whether he would lend me a few law books. He greeted me in a friendly manner, encouraged me, and suggested that I call at his office the following Sunday morning. Upon keeping this appointment, he handed me copies of the Revised Civil Code and Code of Practice of Louisiana. Shortly thereafter I met that distinguished orator, Robert Nicholls Sims, Jr. He greeted me, as he greeted everyone, in a warm and cordial manner, and loaned me "Blackstone's Commentaries". Thus, while continuing my work with the Broussard establishment I managed to put in an hour or two each night reading law. Vic P. Mire, who later became sheriff, Walter Terrio, Clinton Chambers, Eddie Terrio and Henry J. Many also worked for Mr. Broussard about this time.

IN MAY, 1908, I suffered a severe attack of typhoid fever. My mother, then living in Gonzales, heard of it, and post-haste she came to Darrow very much alarmed. She brought me back to Gonzales, where I remained confined to bed for some six weeks. Thus, some forty-three years ago I left my Darrow employment, never to return.

PART X

DISCIPLES OF BLACKSTONE



Clyde V. St. Amant,
District Judge, 1950

In the fall of the long-forgotten year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred Eight, Clyde V. St. Amant, who latter became state senator, and, thereafter, district judge, my brother, John A. Marchand, II, and I went to Baton Rouge to seek admission to the law school of Louisiana State University, then located where Louisiana's sky-scraper capital now stands. We were "country boys" who had very little money, a very limited education, but a determination to overcome all obstacles. Dr. Joseph I. Kelly, of 3515 Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, the dean of the law school, and Col. A. T. Prescott, of Baton Rouge, the secretary, greeted us in their office on the lower floor of the old Hill Memorial library building. Upon successfully passing the customary examination, we were permitted to register and "plank-down" the entrance fees.

A lodging and eating place was our next requirement, and we had to keep within our means. Funds being low, with very little income in sight, we scouted around Baton Rouge to see what could be done. After making a thorough search of available places, we finally decided to rent from Philip Zimbrich a small building—two rooms and kitchen—facing southward, immediately in the rear of the store of Mr. Zimbrich. His store faced North Boulevard at the corner of St. Ferdinand, and we were at his back door facing south. Only a few steps from the eastern entrance to the old market house.



Sidney A., III and John C. Marchand standing on the site of the Zimbrich Cottage, 1951

Here we cooked a little, ate out a little and studied lots, and struggled along as the 1908-09 school term passed along. Looking backward, forty years afterwards, I recall how carefree and happy we were—living on the fond hopes that to-morrow's sunshine surely will bring success and happiness. Mr. Zimbrich was always our good

friend, and his friendly greetings did much towards making life pleasant.

In September, 1909, my mother decided to rent a small cottage on the west side of North Maximillian street. I think the house number was 125—it was near North Boulevard. Here, our little group, my mother, Earline, John, Clyde V. St. Amant and I spent the terrible storm of September, 1909. On the morning after the storm we ventured out into town, and saw mute evidence of the fierceness of the blow, homes damaged, fallen trees, and broken branches were found everywhere.



House at 125 Maximillian Street, where we spent the storm of September, 1909

During those days, my father was post-master at Gonzales, Louisiana, with a very small income. Naturally, we had to struggle desperately to make ends meet. We didn't have a nickel to spend for other than absolute necessities. Forty years afterwards, I recall my old alpaca coat and derby I used in those days. In spite of it all, we got along fine.

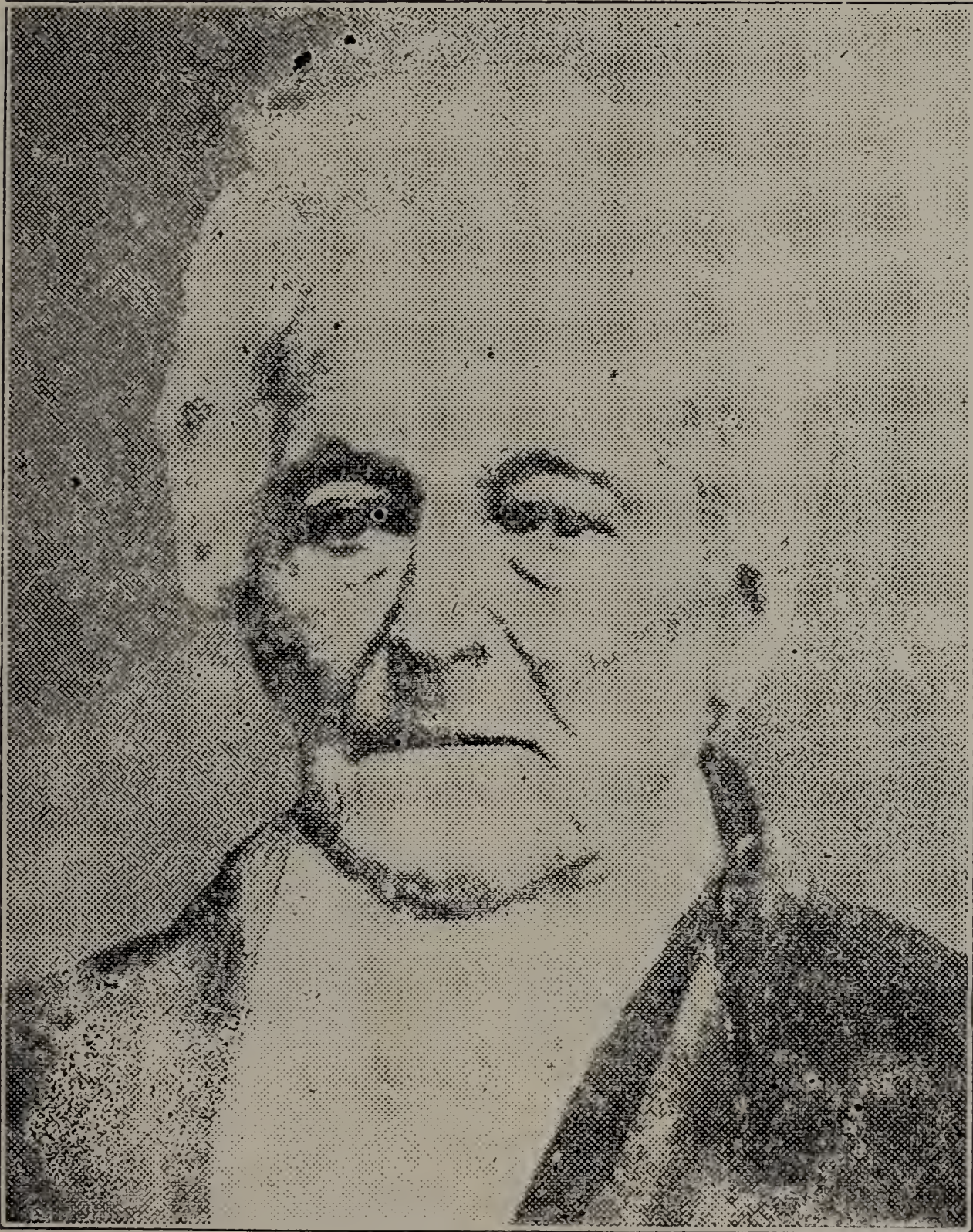
In May, 1910, Governor J. Y. Sanders presented our diplomas at commencement exercises held in the old Garig hall, near the present site of Louisiana's capitol. My funds were very low, but I knew that my "Uncle Hiram", who then resided in Houston, was a wonderful man. I wired him for financial assistance, and he gave me a favorable reply immediately. We hastened to appear before the Supreme Court, in the old Cabildo, in New Orleans, where the justices of the Court, among them being Francis T. Nicholls, signed our licenses permitting us to practice our chosen profession.



On the veranda of Mrs. Alcide Gautreau's rooming house, Baton Rouge, 1909. Lena Gautreau, Felicie Gonzales, Jeanne Rodriguez, and Sidney A. Marchand.

PART XI

THE CARVERS



HIRAM CARVER, I, born Feb. 4, 1794; married Oct. 19, 1815; died at Whistler, Ala., about 1875.

ON OCTOBER 19, 1815, Hiram Carver, I, was married to Hannah Zenobia Myer, a daughter of Solomon Myer and Salome Hirshberger, in the city of Washington. The parentage of Hiram Carver, I, is unknown to me; we do know, however, that, according to family records, he was born on February 4, 1794, and died at Whistler, Ala., about 1875.

Of this marriage the following children were born; Columbus M., Aug. 5, 1816; Thos. J., July 26, 1818; Concordia S., 1821; Elizabeth Louise, Jan. 23, 1827; Hiram Hedwig (my grandfather), at Madison, Va., Oct. 15, 1829; Benjamin F., 1823; and William G. T., July 23, 1833. They settled in various parts of the South prior to



Hiram H. Carver



Emma Bourg

the Civil War. This article is confined to my grandfather, Hiram Hedwig Carver, and his descendants. For data on the descendants of other members of the family I refer the reader to "Carver-Myer Tree", Marchand, 1927.

My grandfather, Hiram Hedwig Carver, was married

to Emma Bourg, daughter of Marcelin Bourg and Helouise Folse, at Napoleonville, Louisiana, on February 9, 1858. Ten children were born of this marriage: Helouise, May 15, 1859; Fannie, Aug. 16, 1860; Hiram Waldemar, our "Uncle Hiram", on May 24, 1862; Lorena Gertrude, my mother, on March 4, 1866; William H., July 29, 1867; Thomas C., March 21, 1870; Susannah, Dec. 6, 1871; Annie, Jan. 2, 1874; Earline, May 25, 1875; and Frank Harold, April 2, 1879. Susannah and Frank Harold died when children.

My grandmother, Emma Bourg Carver, died at Napoleonville, La., on Oct. 26, 1884, at the age of 43 years 9 months. At her death, she was survived by her husband and the above named children—my mother Lorena, being only 18 years of age; Aunt Fannie was the only one then married. However, in the following year—1885—Hiram W. was married to Josephine Sigur (March 19, 1885), and Lorena Gertrude was married to my father, John A. Marchand, I, on June 16th of that year.

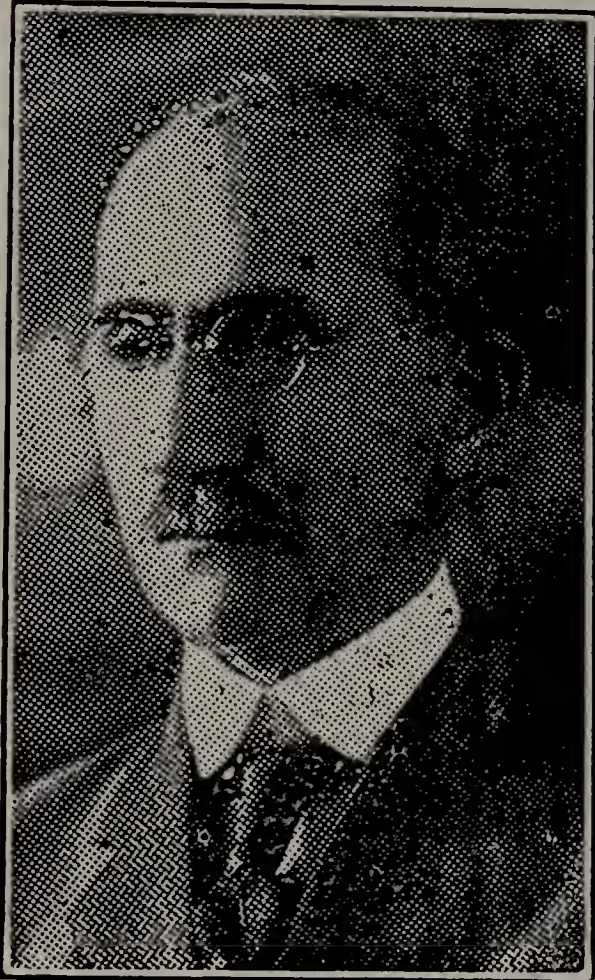
Hiram Hedwig Carver died in Crowley, La., on Sept. 9, 1903, while living with his son, Hiram W. Carver. His mortal remains were laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery there.

Now, let us proceed to another generation. We find that: Helouise, on April 23, 1878, was married at Napoleonville, to Alexander S. Landry, a son of Dorcini Landry and Rosella Braud, of Darrow, La. Of this marriage two children were born, Hugh Hiram, Oct. 12, 1879, and Lynton Leslie Landry, Aug. 12, 1882.

Subsequently, on July 7, 1887, at Napoleonville, she was married to Edward Lauand. Of this marriage the following were born: Harry Earl, Aug. 13, 1888; and Emma Lauand, on Sept. 12, 1892. She departed this life on Oct. 15, 1897, and her remains are interred in the Napoleonville Catholic cemetery, with those of Aunt Fannie.

Fannie Carver, on Feb. 19, 1879, at Napoleonville, La., was married to Thos. D. Kent. One child, Emma Kent,

was born issue of this marriage. Mrs. Fannie Carver died on Sept. 9, 1895, and her mortal remains are interred in the Catholic cemetery in Napoleonville. Emma Kent was married to John H. Schrodtt: they have no children.



Hiram W. Carver



Josephine Sigur

"Uncle Hiram" Carver was married on March 19, 1885, on Claiborne plantation, Hohen Solms, La., to Josephine Sigur. Of this union the following children were born: James Allen, Oct. 1, 1886; Anna, Oct. 5, 1887; Leon E., June 27, 1889; and Ethel, On Aug. 7, 1896. As stated hereinbefore, "Uncle Hiram" and his wife, Josephine, were present at my parents' marriage on June 16, 1885. He is still living, his address being 419 Merritt Ave., Oakland, Calif. Mrs. Josephine S. Carver died on Aug. 31, 1931, and her remains are buried in Crowley. On Sept. 17, 1932, at Oakland, Calif. he was married to Jane Mulvihill, who died Dec. 15, 1943; on Jan. 5, 1946, in Oakland, he was married to Eliza Yates Atkins.

Lorena Gertrude, my mother, as stated hereinbefore,

married John A. Marchand, I, on June 16, 1885, and of this marriage the following named were born: John A., II, April 19, 1886; Sidney A., Dec. 5, 1887; Earline, May 31, 1890; Frank Harold, Nov. 22, 1891; Lydia E., Sept. 2, 1894, and Evie T., on Oct. 25, 1903. My mother, Lorena Carver, died on March 23, 1927, and her remains are interred in the Catholic cemetery at Gonzales, La. John A. Marchand, I, died on Aug. 16, 1939, and his remains are at rest in the same cemetery.



J. Allie, Leon E., Hiram W. and William H. Carver.

Wm. H. Carver, on June 6, 1889, at St. Ann's Catholic church, New Orleans, was married to Helena M. Sigur. Of this union the following named children were born: Hattie, April 19, 1896; Gussie, Dec. 8, 1899; William H., Jr., July 27, 1902; Helena Josie, March 26, 1909; Leovenia Mary, Feb. 15, 1891; Willie, Jr., April 20, 1894. "Uncle Willie" died at New Iberia, La., on Dec. 28, 1924.

"Uncle Tom" (Thomas C. Carver) was married to Mamie Ramoin, in Iberville parish, on June 18, 1890. Of

this marriage the following named children were born: Thos. C. Jr., July 23, 1891; Myrl Lucille, Oct. 10, 1893; Lee Lucien, Nov. 13, 1903, and Robert E. on Aug. 9, 1898. Mrs. Mamie Ramoin Carver and Mrs. Lee Lucien Carver can be reached at Carver's Pontiac Service, Ave. H, at First St., Crowley. Thos. C. Carver died at Crowley on April 27, 1906, and his remains are interred in the Catholic cemetery there.



Thomas C. Carver



Annie Carver January

"Aunt Annie" (Annie Carver January) was married to Derrick R. January, at Rayne, La., on June 22, 1892. Of this union one child, Ora Magdalen, was born, on Dec. 28, 1901. Aunt Annie died in 1935, and is buried in Magnolia cemetery, Beaumont, Texas.

"Aunt Earline" (Mrs. Earline Carver Lyon) is the only one of the Carver girls now living; and she is in very poor health in Memphis, Tenn. At Thibodaux, La., on June 10, 1897, she was married to Thos D. Kent, the widower of her predeceased sister, Fannie. Of this union the following were born: Thos. D., Jr., who died in infancy; and

Marjorie (now Marjorie Kent Crea), of 993 Robin Hood Lane. Memphis, Tenn. (Note: Aunt Earline died Sept. 5, 1951; buried in Episcopal cemetery, Thibodaux, La.)

Years after the death of Mr. Kent, "Aunt Earline" married Arthur Nathan Lyon, at Gretna, La., on Aug. 8, 1922.

Almost a century and a quarter have elapsed since my grandfather, Hiram H. Carver, was born at Madison court house, in old Virginia, and we find that his descendants, bearing the names Carver, Marchand, Landry Lau-land, LeBlanc, Kent, Schexnayder, McCarthy, Coroy, Muller, Montgomery, Reynolds, January, Voinche, Blanchard and Lacour, are scattered throughout the land.



Earline Carver Kent

PART XII

OCTOGENARIAN DREAMS OF LOUISIANA



Hiram W. Carver,
World War II

“UNCLE HIRAM” (Hiram W. Carver), now 89 years of age, who was born in the parish of Assumption, on May 24, 1862, spent his young days on Claiborne plantation, at Hohen Solms, La., and his mid-life at Crowley, now lives at 419 Merrit Ave., in Oakland, Calif. Notwithstanding his advanced age, by the grace of Divine Providence, he is still possessed of his mental faculties. All of his days, he has been a great reader and student of history. At this writing, he is the only one of the Carver boys still living. Of all those who attended the wedding of my father and mother at his home on Claiborne plantation, Hohen Solms, La., on June 16, 1885, there are only two mortals left alive, and they are “Uncle Hiram” and Octave S. Broussard. The following letter, dated July 20, 1949 written in a clear

and distinct hand-writing, and addressed to me, shows how very much "Uncle Hiram" dreams of the old days in Louisiana. It is entitled to be reproduced herein:

"Dear Sidney:

"Thanks very much for 'Across the Years'; just finished reading it from 'kiver to kiver' and enjoyed all very much. It, of course, brought back many memories, both sad and pleasant. I first went on the Mississippi river in 1878; took a clerkship in the Ascension store, one of John Burnside's plantation stores. (Note: at McCall, La.). Jules Fichel was manager. Salary \$35 per month, room and board; that was good at the time. Eugene Tircuit was manager overseer. Burnside also owned the adjoining large plantation called the (New) Hope. Tucker was its manager . . . I remember while there that Mr. Burnside made a visit; he was quite old at that time. The N. O. buyer, Geo. Chappella, we saw quite often. After being there several years, I returned on the Bayou (Lafourche) and worked during grinding at the Jones' 'Glenwood' plantation. My uncle, J. E. Moseman, was mgr. overseer. After grinding was over I was with my folks in Donaldsonville (Donaldsonville, La.), when I met a fine Episcopal minister, Rev. Stuart. I told him that I was out of work and thought of making a trip up the River (Mississippi). He gave me a very nice letter to Dr. Stone, who lived on his plantation in Iberville parish. The Dr. and his wife lived in a stately mansion, (Note: I think Belle Grove), both quite old, had nothing for me, was well received, had nice dinner with them. He gave me a note to his son-in-law, Jas. A. Ware, who owned the Belle Grove plantation and was about to open a plantation store. I called on Mr. W., and was well rec'd; he asked me many questions. That was in 1881. I was less than 19 years old, very anxious to get to work, especially to manage a store. He asked my age: I looked him in the eye and said, '21 years'. He said 'Rather young', I answered that I had the experience and knew I could fill the job. 'Now,

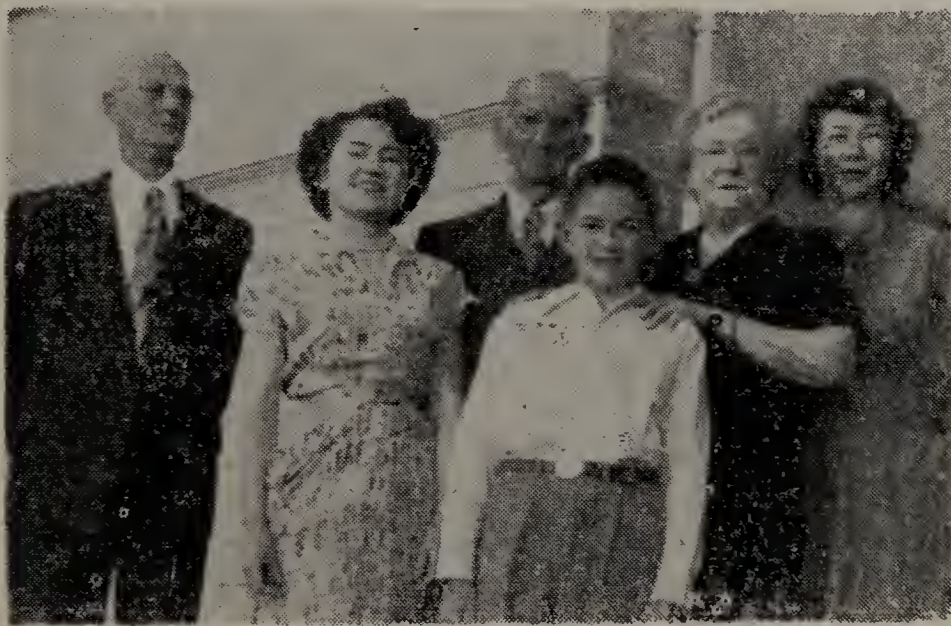
as to salary', I answered, 'you make the price'. He said 'Suppose \$75.00 per month to start', I hesitated a while, and answered 'It's a bargain.' I had never received more than \$35 before and at that time the salary was good, I remained there for over three years and saved up over \$900, then bought one-half interest in the John A. Stevenson plant store. In 1885 I married Stevenson's wife's sister, Josephine (Sigur), and a couple of years later sold out and went to Crowley, La. (Note: Hiram W. Carver was a member of the first town council of Crowley, La.)

"So much for that. Now, let's get back to Ascension parish.

"When I left Ascension parish sugar cane was still profitable and the signs were that conditions were still better before the Civil War when many of the places on River (Mississippi) and Bayou (Lafourche) built such fine homes and mansions. When I visited D'ville (Donaldsonville), while in Ascension parish, I made quite a few good friends, some of whom are mentioned in 'Across the Years'. It's a good picture of Henry C. Braud, just as he looked when I last met him in Capitol bldg. in Baton Rouge, while I was a member of the House. Will Parks (Wm. D. Parks, cashier of Bank of Donaldsonville), was connected with one of the banks. Dr. (John D.) Hanson, he attended my mother (Emma Bourg, wife of Hiram H. Carver before her death; Christian Kline and L. E. Bentley. I remember him well; they were good friends of my father (Hiram H. Carver). Also W. E. Bateman, Judge Henry L. Duffel, it's a good picture of him, the Sims and Pughs and Bartons. I went to private school with Sidney S. and Larry Pugh and C. C. Barton. Also, knew well Sam St. Martin (Sheriff) and J. Achille Landry (Clerk of Court), Jos. St. Amant (Representative) and quite a few others. It seems to me that you had a dark complected negro by the name of Peter Jones, as sheriff, while I was in Ascension parish . . . Hiram W. Carver

"P. S. All planters (along Bayou Lafourche) got their merchandise thru brokers or factors out of N. O. . . . My grandmother Bourg (Mrs. Marcelin Bourg) got her advances from him (Rapheal Bertrand, New Orleans). I remember there was a Catholic fair in Plattenville, it was quite an affair, lasted three days . . . Most boats plying the bayou sent representatives or very nice presents. I well remember Capt. Charlet, he had a nice home near Plattenville. Also, knew Capt Dalferes and Capt. Max Blanchard. He was a great favorite of us, kids. I always enjoyed seeing and riding on the boats, whenever I could, when on the river. We rec'd all our goods out of N. O. by boat and made frequent trips on them to N. O. and return. Uncle Hiram."

Thus, we glean a picture of the struggle of Hiram W. Carver, beginning some sixty-five years ago, while residing on the banks of Bayou Lafourche and the Father of Waters.



(Left to right) Leon J. and Virginia M. Schexnayder, H. W. Carver, Jas. Allen Carver, Mrs. Eliza Y. Carver, Alice Atkins.

PART XIII

PRACTICE—POLITICS—DEFEATS

UPON GRADUATION FROM the law school of old Louisiana State University, and after taking the barrister's oath before the Supreme Court, then sitting in the Cabildo, New Orleans, I came to Donaldsonville, sat at a little desk, and waited for clients—all in vain. It was June, 1910, when I appeared at the office of that highly esteemed lawyer and citizen, Gustavus Adolph Gondran, and occupied the desk space which he so kindly assigned to me. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Gondran was made an assistant attorney-general by that distinguished jurist, Judge Walter Guion. Upon his removal to New Orleans, I remained in his office across the street, on the north side, of the Ascension parish court house. On Monday of each week, I held forth as a counsellor in the rear room of the Farmers' Union store building, at Gonzales. In this way, I kept in close touch with my many New River friends.

One year following my admission to the bar, I decided to enter the race for representative in the state Legislature. My opponents were Achille I. Picard, Joseph Gonzales, Christian Kline and V. Alcee Rodrigue. Two were to be elected; and I was endorsed by no one, and had no money. After making a thorough canvas on horseback and in buggy, and after receiving the sympathetic greetings of the "old guard" politicians, election day rolled around in January, 1912. When the votes were counted, Achille I. Picard was top man, I was second, and Joseph Gonzales third. A second primary was held in February, 1912, and I was elected. Pay was \$5 per day for 60-day sessions biennially. I served in the old Louisiana capitol building from 1912 to 1916. But, in 1916, I was retired by the voters.

In 1920, I decided to enter the race for district judge against my good friend, Sam A. LeBlanc, now an associate justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Election day was in September, 1920. My opponent swept Assumption,

View of Mayor's office, Donaldsonville, 1929. S. A. Marchand, R. E. Dill, Jos. Jejeune-



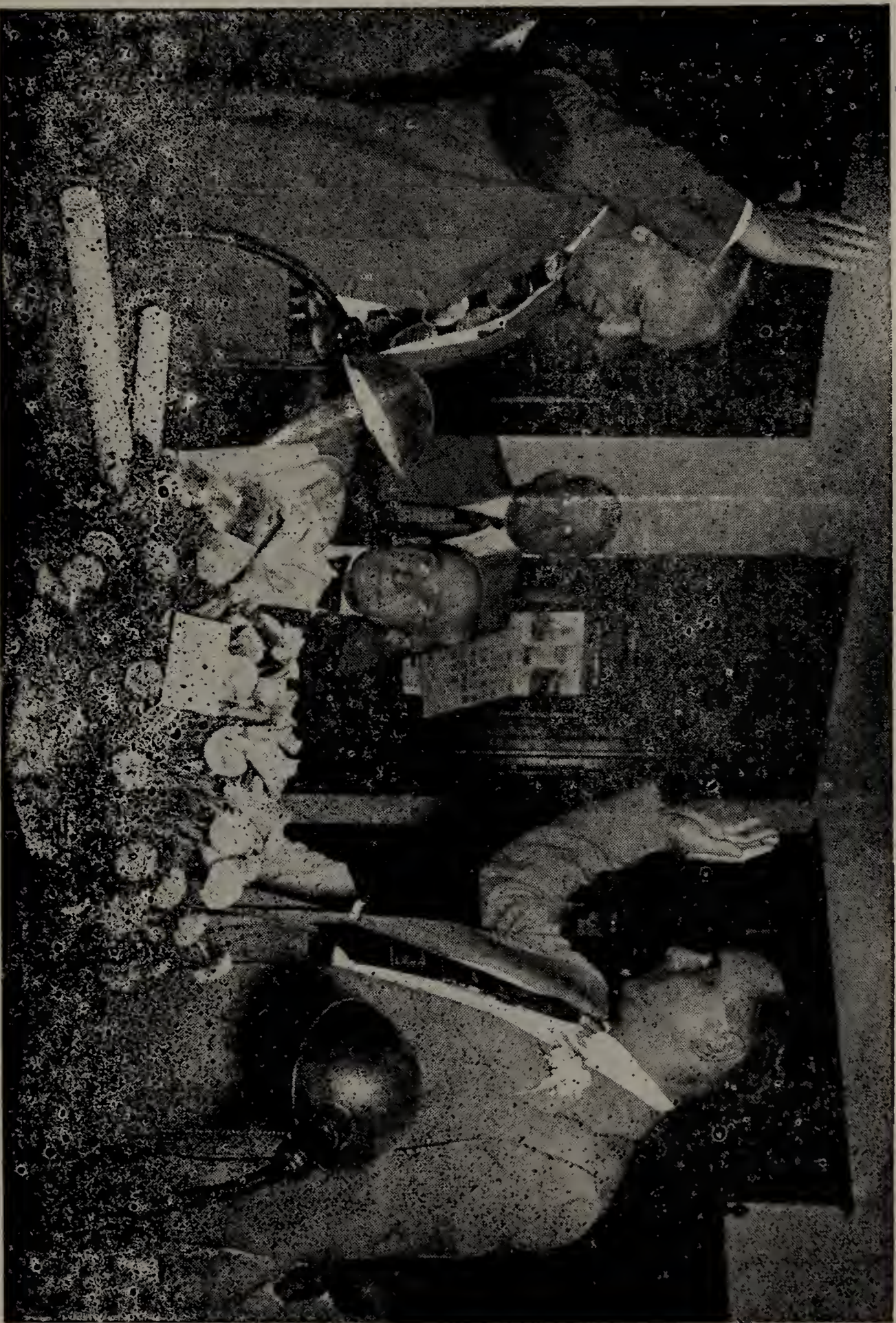
carried St. James by a good majority, and, of course, was elected. I was proud, however, in having carried my home parish by a vote of two to one over my distinguished opponent. Thus, I was again retired by the voters.

In 1928 I again ran for member of the House from Ascension parish. There were several candidates, but only one to be elected. In the second primary, Maurice S. Eby, a splendid citizen from Sorrento, was my opponent. He was top-man in the first primary. When the votes were counted in the second primary, I was exactly 100 votes ahead of my opponent. I served from 1928 to 1932 in the House in the old state capitol building.

The year 1929 saw the impeachment proceedings against Governor Huey P. Long instituted. Twenty-two years have elapsed since then, but I clearly recall the bitterness, envy and hatred which prevailed. After contacting several friends in Ascension, I decided to cast my lot with the Governor.

In the spring of 1929, and on the last day in which notifications of candidacy might be filed, several of my friends gathered at my office at 116 Railroad avenue, Donaldsonville, and urged me to enter the race for mayor of the city of Donaldsonville. I omitted to state that I had been defeated for this office four years previously by Alexander Bloomensteil. At the last moment I filed for mayor with Alex Bloomensteil and Louis Ohlmeyer filing for commissioners. Mr. Bloomensteil and I were elected, but our running mate, Louis Ohlmeyer, was defeated by Joseph Mistretta. The attorney general rendered an opinion to the effect that the holding of both these offices at the same time was not a violation of the dual-office holding law. Acting upon the advice of my friends, I held both offices at the same time from 1929 to 1932. In 1932 I went out as representative and in 1933 I left the office of mayor. Since then, to the best of my recollection, I have not sought public office.

My only son, Sidney, Jr., had barely graduated from Louisiana State University law school, when the Selective



Ex-Mayor Sidney A. Marchand swearing in Sidney A. Marchand, Jr., Mayor of Donaldsonville, May, 1949.

Service Board drafted him for service in the armed forces for World War II. After training in the United States at Camp Blanding, Fort Benning, Brownwood, Texas, and other camps too numerous to mention, he was transferred overseas—to England. He was a member of that gallant band that crossed the English channel in the Normandy invasion, landing at Utah beach, on June 6, 1944, at about 6:30 a. m. Over three thousand five hundred brave boys fell and died, within the space of an hour or so, in this particular venture. By the Grace of God, for which I am deeply thankful, my son was spared. He was a member of the Ivy Leaf 4th Infantry Division, and was injured several times in the drive on Cherbourg, St. Lo and other places. After being awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star he was returned to us in Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

Upon returning to Donaldsonville, he formed a co-partnership with that distinguished and eminent lawyer, George R. Blum, an association that continues to this date. Donaldsonville's mayor, Milburn J. Landry, on account of serious illness, resigned his office. To fill the vacancy, Sidney, Jr., was appointed, and on April 12, 1949, he was elected for a full four-year term. It was my happy privilege to swear in Sidney, Jr., as mayor of the city of Donaldsonville; and for this, I say to the voters: "Thanks a Million!"

PART XIV

SCATTERED LIKE SNOWFLAKES

MY GRANDFATHER, HIRAM H. CARVER, was married to Emma Bourg, on February 9, 1858; and my paternal grandfather, Joseph Alexander Marchand, was married to Magdeline Octavie Landry, on April 25, 1859. A span of almost one hundred years has elapsed since these nuptials. Looking about, we find their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land. From California, on the Pacific, to Florida, on the Atlantic, we observe them pursuing all walks of life.



John C. and Sidney A. Marchand, III, at cage of Mike, the tiger, Baton Rouge.



Lydia Marchand Coroy, Albert B. Coroy, and their children, Carolyn, Benny, Raymond.

I have made a diligent effort to compile a 1951 directory, giving the names and addresses of all these descend-

ants who are living, young and old, in the fond hope that such a directory may assist in keeping alive the bonds of affection between the Carver and Marchand families for many years to come. With the aid of several members of the two families involved it has been possible to compile the following:



Evie Theresa Marchand
(Mrs. Karl A. Muller)



Jessie Earline and Lorraine
Marchand and Evelyn Mul-
ler

The following symbols are used: (a) children; (b) grandchildren; (c) great-grandchildren.

(Descendants of FANNIE CARVER KENT)

(a) Emma Kent Schrodts, 602 E. First St., Thibodaux, La.

(Descendants of HELOUISE CARVER LANDRY LAU-
LAND)

(a) Hugh Hiram Landry, P. O. Box 262, Perry, Fla.

(b) Warren B. Landry, P. O. Box 262, Perry, Fla.

(b) Ira A. Landry, P. O. Box 262, Perry, Fla.

(b) Helouise Landry McRae, P. O. Box 262, Perry, Fla.

(b) Myrtle Landry L. Weichman, 210 W. Ga. St., Tallahassee, Fla.

(c) Ira A. Landry, Jr., P. O. Box 262, Perry Fla.

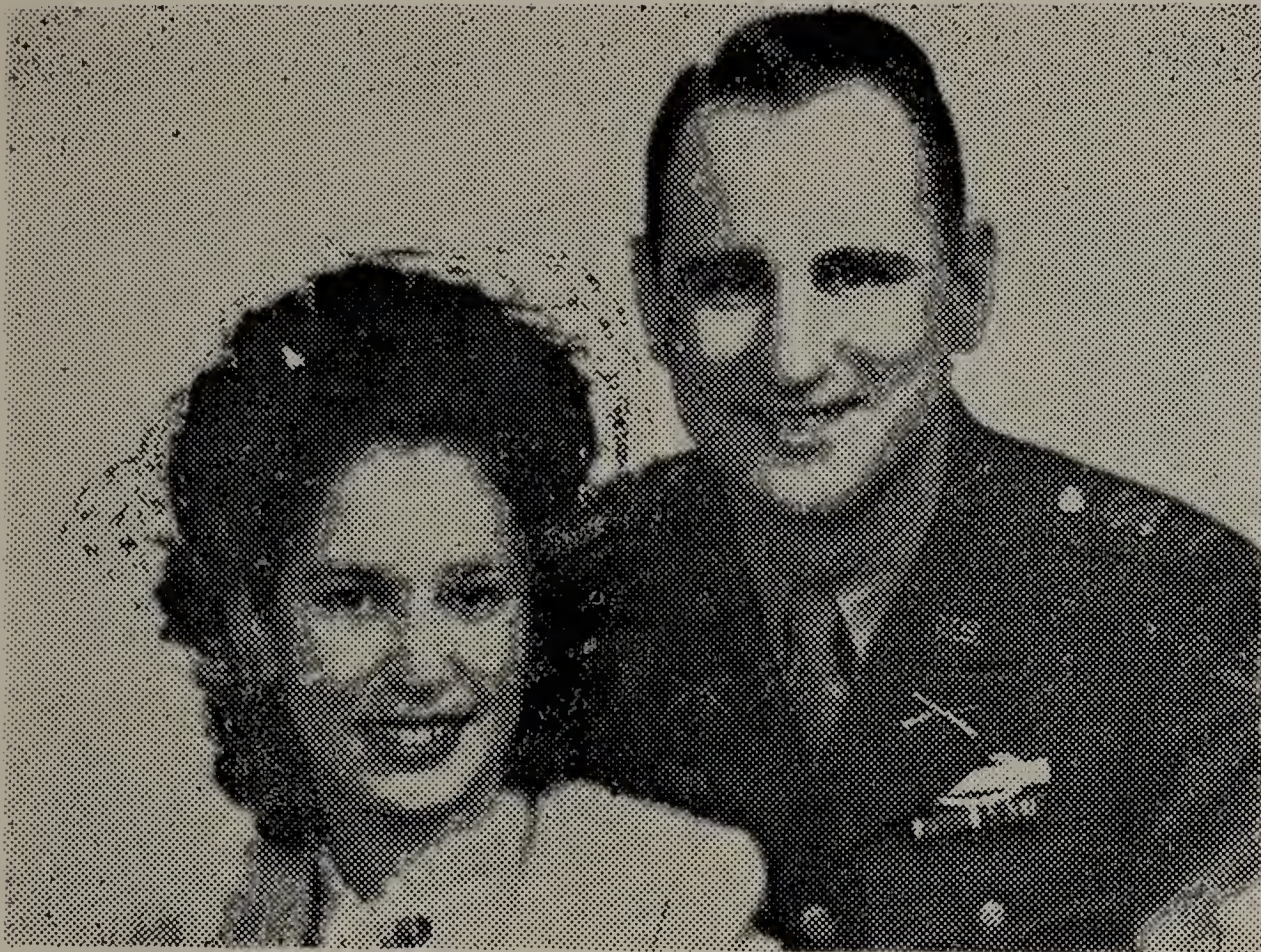
- (c) Leslie McQueen Landry, P. O. Box 262, Perry, Fla.
- (c) Ramona Landry, 1744 Lilly Rd., Jacksonville, Fla.
- (c) Thomas E. McRae, Jr., P. O. Box 262, Perry, Fla.
- (c) Mary Ann McRae, P. O. Box 262, Perry, Fla.
- (a) Harry Earl Lauland, 530 S. Jeff. or 1050 Willow, Perry Fla.
- (a) Emma Lauland Berry, Army Navy Club, Memphis, Tenn.
- (b) Robert Berry, Elgin A. F. Base, Fla.
- (c) Priscilla Carver Berry, Elgin A. F. Base, Fla.
- (s) Mary Helen Berry, Elgin A. F. Base, Fla.
- (c) Gail Mullison, c/o Earline Landry Mullison, Audibon, Pa.
- (c) Edward Warren Mullison, Audubon, Pa.



- Mary Edwards Marchand (Mrs. S. A. Marchand) Sidney A. Marchand, with Jo Ann LaCour and Roscoe
- (Descendants of HIRAM W. CARVER, 419 Merritt Ave., Oakland, Calif.)
- (a) James Allen Carver, dec'd; his widow, Bertha S. Carver, 2016 "P" St., Sacramento, Calif.
 - (a) Anna Carver McCarthy, Rte. 5, The Woods, Lafayette, Ind.

- (b) James L. McCarthy, Jr., 703 E. Main, Crawfordsville, Ind.
- (c) James I. McCarthy, III, 703 E. Main, Crawfordsville, Ind.
- (c) Alberta R. McCarthy, 703 E. Main, Crawfordsville, Ind.
- (b) Kevin McCarthy, 315 Brookside Dr., Lafayette, La.
- (c) Kevin McCarthy, Jr., 315 Brookside Dr., Lafayette, La.
- (c) Patrick D. McCarthy, 315 Brookside Dr., Lafayette, La.
- (c) Daniel J. McCarthy, 315 Brookside Dr., Lafayette, La.
- (b) Josephine C. McCarver (Mrs. J. L. Halsmer), Lafayette, Ind.
- (c) Joseph Lawrence Halsmer, Jr., Lafayette, Ind.
- (c) John Peter Halsmer, Lafayette, Ind.
- (c) Cornelius Jos. Halsmer, Lafayette, Ind.
- (c) Cornelius Jos. Malsmer, Lafayette, Ind.
- (c) Patrick Daniel Halsmer, Lafayette, Ind.
- (b) Thomas Waldemar McCarthy, Indianapolis, Ind.
- (c) Thos. Jos. McCarthy, Indianapolis, Ind.
- (c) Daniel Francis McCarthy, Indianapolis, Ind.
- (b) Frederick Kenny McCarthy, Indianapolis, Ind.
- (a) Leon E. Carver, dec'd; his widow, Frances S. Carver, 19 Hopkins St., New Iberia, La.
- (b) Richard Carver, 19 Hopkins St., New Iberia, La.
- (a) Ethel Carver Schexnayder, dec'd; widower, Leon J. Schexnayder, 6606 Whitney Ave., Oakland, Calif.
- (b) Virginia M. Schexnayder, 6606 Whitney Ave., Oakland, Calif.
- (b) Leon J. Schexnayder, Jr., 6606 Whitney Ave., Oakland, Calif.
- (b) John J. Schexnayder, 6606 Whitney Ave., Oakland, Calif.
- (c) David Paul Halsmer, (c/o Mrs. J. L. Halsmer) Lafayette, Ind.
- (c) Gary Stephen Schexnayder, 4021 Howe St., Oakland, Calif.
- (b) James Allen Schexnayder, 4021 Howe St., Oakland, Calif.

- (c) Frederick Kenny McCarthy, 2540 W. Washington,
Indianapolis, Ind.



Violet Mae LeBlanc
Mrs. S. A. Marchand, Jr.

Sidney A. Marchand, II

(Descendants of THOMAS C. CARVER)

- (a) Myrl Carver Voinche, 204 W. 4th St., Crowley, La.
- (b) Thomas C. Voinche, Lafayette, La.
- (b) Jack L. Voinche, Lake Charles, La.
- (c) Thomas C. Voinche, II, Lafayette, La.
- (c) Marjorie Ann Voinche, Lafayette, La.
- (c) Pierre D. Voinche, Lake Charles, La.
- (c) Claude H. Voinche, Lake Charles, La.
- (a) Lee L. Carver, Ave. "H", at First St., Crowley, La.

(Descendants of ANNIE CARVER JANUARY)

- (a) Ora January Ryan, (Mrs. T. F. Ryan), 371 Frederick St., Beaumont, Texas.
- (b) Katherine Ryan Luquette, 936 North St., Beaumont, Texas

(Descendants of EARLINE CARVER KENT LYON) 993

Robin Hood Lane, Memphis Tenn.

(a) Marjorie Kent Crea, 993 Robin Hood Lane, Memphis, Tenn.

(b) Kent J. Crea, 993 Robin Hood Lane, Memphis, Tenn.



John A. Marchand, II, at Mary E. Marchand and Jas.
age 20 years.

S. Barman in front of Ascen-
sion parish court house.

(Descendants of LORENA CARVER MARCHAND)

(a) John A. Marchand, Jr., 550 Main St., Baton Rouge, La.

(a) Sidney A. Marchand, Sr., 312 Iberville St., Donaldsonville, La.

(a) Lydia Marchand Coroy, Gonzales, La.

(a) F. Harold Marchand, 502 Lee Ave., Donaldsonville, La.

(b) Sidney A. Marchand, Jr., 316 Church St. Donaldsonville, La.

(b) Mary Marchand Montgomery, 329 Stevenson, Lafayette, La.

(b) Jessie Marchand Reynolds, c/o 809 Webster, Donaldsonville, La.

(b) Beverly Marchand LaCour, Gonzales, La.

- (b) Madge Marchand LeBlanc, 802 Iberville, Donaldsonville, La.
- (b) Lorraine M. Blanchard, c/o 502 Lee Ave., Donaldsonville, La.
- (b) John A. Coroy, Gonzales, La.
- (b) Joseph B. Coroy, Gonzales, La.
- (b) Carolyn Coroy, Gonzales, La.
- (b) Raymond Coroy, Gonzales, La.
- (b) Evelyn Muller Davis, 5424 Fairfields Ave., Baton Rouge, La.
- (b) Karl A. Muller, Jr., 6424 Fairfields Ave, Baton Rouge, La.
- (c) Anne Marchand, 316 Church St., Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) Sidney A. Marchand, III, 316 Church St., Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) John Clement Marchand, 316 Church St., Donaldson-
- (c) Paul Carver Marchand, 316 Church St., Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) Marilyn Montgomery, 328 Stevenson, Lafayette, La.
- (c) Michael P. Montgomery, 328 Stevenson, Lafayette, La.
- (c) Frederick Montgomery, 328 Stevenson, Lafayette, La.
- (c) Linnie Montgomery, 328 Stevenson, Lafayette, La.
- (c) Jonathan H. Reynolds, c/o 809 Webster, Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) Harold A. Lacour, Gonzales, La.
- (c) Jo Ann LaCour, Gonzales, La.
- (c) Michael LaCour, Gonzales, La.
- (c) Mark LaCour, Gonzales, La.
- (c) Sydney Lynn LeBlanc, 802 Iberville, Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) Stephen Carver LeBlanc, 802 Iberville, Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) Peggy Ann LeBlanc, 802 Iberville, Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) Patricia Anne LeBlanc, 802 Iberville St., Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) Roxanne Blanchard, c/o 502 Lee Ave., Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) Kirk Blanchard, 502 Lee Ave, Donaldsonville, La.
- (c) John A. Coroy, II, 1931 Abundance St., New Orleans, La.
- (c) Albert B. Coroy, 510 Fenwick, Houston, Texas

- (c) Rita Lomain Davis, 5424 Fairfields Ave., Baton Rouge, La.



Jessie Marchand, Paul Montgomery, Mary E. Montgomery, Mrs. S. A. Marchand and S. A. Marchand.

(Descendants of WILLIAM H. CARVER).

- (a) William H. Carver, 215 Peachtree Way, Atlanta, Ga.
- (a) Gussie Carver Roy, 6029 Hurst St., New Orleans, La.
- (a) Hattie Carver O'Sullivan, 5648 Canal Blvd., New Orleans, La.
- (a) Helena Carver, (Mrs. Merlin Perry), 427 S. Gayoso, New Orleans, La.
- (b) Mrs. Edric Comcaux, 3683 Beckham St., Shreveport, La.
- (b) Mrs. J. P. Heno, 6029 Hurst St., New Orleans, La.
- (b) Mrs. J. D. Werner, 2002 Government St., Baton Rouge, La.
- (b) I. L. O'Sullivan, Jr., Tuscaloosa, Ala.
- (c) Edric Joseph Comeaux, Jr., 3683 Beckham St., Shreveport, La.

- (c) Lenes Earl Comeaux, 3683 Beckham St., Shreveport La.
- (c) John D. Wermer, Jr., 2002 Government St., Baton Rouge, La.
- (c) Elizabeth Ann Heno, 6029 Hurst St., New Orleans, La.
- (c) James Prescott Heno, 6029 Hurst St., New Orleans, La.



J. H. Reynolds, Jessie M. Reynolds, Mrs. S. A. Marchand



William H. Carver

PART XV

RECOLLECTIONS OF JOHN A. MARCHAND

ON SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1937, my father, John A. Marchand, I, had attained the age of 75 years, 5 months and 14 days. His death occurred on August 16, 1939—only two years subsequent to his writing the letter hereinafter reproduced. I had previously made an appointment to visit him at the home of my sister, Lydia M. Coroy, at Gonzales, on Sunday afternoon, July 11th. After dinner we sat in a swing on a porch on the east side of the house; and here we spent the afternoon. How distinctly I recall my father seated comfortably in the swing, smoking a small pipe! I can hardly realize that fourteen years have elapsed since then. By means of questions and answers on his infancy, childhood, youth, early manhood, marriage and later life, the following letter was prepared, submitted to him, and duly executed by him. It strikes me as being worthy of being reproduced herein in full for the benefit of posterity. The letter is dated July 11, 1937, addressed to his children, John, Sidney, Harold and Lydia, and is as follows:

“I was born on the Old Norbert Landry place at Prairieville, La., on Jan. 27, 1862, the son of Joseph Alexandre Marchand and Magdeline Octavie Landry. My father was the son of Simon Marchand and Marie Savoy, the latter being the daughter of Simon Savoye and Rosalie Duhon. They were from St. James parish. All of my maternal grandparents were from Ascension. My mother was the daughter of Norbert Landry and Eliza Landry. I was born on a Monday and my mother died on Jan. 31, 1862—when I was four days of age. I was then turned over to an old ‘granny’ called ‘Meme Phine’, who lived on the Joachim Kling place on the ‘Bluff’. She was nursing her own baby called ‘Pat’ at the time. In order to maintain the spark of life, necessity prompted me to partake of the food which ‘Pat’ enjoyed.

Upon arriving at the age of 4 years, J. Butler Gonzales, then about 20 years of age, son of Miguel Gonzales, transported me by horseback from the 'Bluff to his father's home at Galvez. His father had married my paternal grandmother. On this ride, I slept all the way and when I awoke I saw the yellow ground of the Galvez section, and knew that my first love, the "Bluff" was far away.

My grandmother, Marie Savoy Gonzales, was lavish in the affection and love which she bestowed upon me. My step-father, Miguel Gonzales, farmed a little, fished and hunted, and we always had an ample supply of food. He could throw his line into the Amite at any time and get a nice fish, or a short journey into the woods would yield a wild turkey. Upon arriving at school age, Butler Gonzales would place me behind him on his pony and off we galloped into the woods until the little school house of John Dixon (father of Ruby Dixon) was reached. I attended this school for two or three years.

My father, Joseph Alexandre Marchand, survived my mother by a few years, having died on Oct. 31, 1867. His occupation was Pharmacist (possibly self-taught) at the store of old man Dumini LeBlanc at Dutch Stores. He remained there while I lived on the 'Bluff' and at Miguel Gonzales' at Galvez. His birth occurred on March 18, 1836. My recollection of him is quite distinct, and I particularly recall that he visited me at Galvez several times, bringing me candy. The family informed me that he was 'Papa', but I felt afraid of him.

"At the age of about 9 I was transferred from the home of Mrs. Miguel Gonzales, my grandmother, at Galvez, to the home of my Godfather, Dumini LeBlanc, who operated a store and small plantation on the site of the Picard & Geismar establishment at Dutchtown. I then attended public school taught by John A. Kernan. A few years after my removal, my grandmother, Mrs. Miguel Gonzales died. They sent a man for me to attend the funeral. She was buried in the Prairieville cemetery near the Catholic church. Her death occurred

about 1874.

"I omitted to state earlier that my little sister, Marie Lydia, who was born on April 13, 1860, and who remained with my maternal grandmother, Mrs. Norbert Landry, died on Oct. 26, 1867, and was buried in the Prairieville Catholic cemetery. I recall that Mrs. Miguel Gonzales, her grandmother, wept bitterly upon hearing of her death. My father and mother are both buried in Prairieville cemetery.

"Dumini LeBlanc lost his store and property at Dutchtown about 1880, and built a new home on the road to Prairieville about 1 mile north of his former store. He was succeeded by Leon Picard and Louis Geismar. My age was now about 19, and I spoke to Mr. Leon Picard concerning a job in the field. He replied that he would see Mr. Geismar, and that he thought that he could give me work in the store, as he did not believe that I could stand fieldwork. About a week later he stated that he had seen Mr. Geismar and that my job at Geismar was O. K. I began working in Geismar's store in August, 1882, at a salary of \$10.00 per month and board, and continued this employment until May, 1883, at which time Joseph Gonzales advised me that John Crosley and Sons, on Southwood plantation, had a position open at \$25.00 per month and board. I entered Crosley's employment in Southwood store on May 1, 1883, and continued in this employment for five and one-half years, leaving there in December, 1888, by which time I had saved \$550.00.

"I was one of the first boys on New River to don a pair of patent leather shoes. On a trip to New Orleans, I purchased a pair for \$6.00. They were admired much by my friends.

"While stationed at Geismar's store, at New River lane, about the year 1882, I met your mother, Lorena Gertrude Carver. She was visiting her sister, Mrs. Alex Landry, who then resided on Waterloo plantation. Thereafter, Uncle Hiram W. Carver was made manager

of Claiborne plantation store, on the west bank of the river, and your mother was visiting him at the time of our marriage. Uncle Hiram and I drove to White Castle by horse and buggy, thence by rail to Plaquemine, to procure my marriage license. This was in June, 1885. A few days thereafter, the Bayou Goula priest—Father J. H. Dubernard—came down and married us on Claiborne plantation, at Cannon post office. Octave S. Broussard, J. E. Moseman, Lena Moseman, Mrs. Sam Burnett, Willie Carver, Hiram Carver, Mrs. Goldstein, Mrs. Vitedo (a ventriloquist) and others, whose names I cannot recall, were present. Our wedding occurred on Tuesday, June 16, 1885, at 8:00 a. m. Uncle Hiram gave us a big spread. At that time, I was working in the Southwood store, and, in order to be present at Claiborne (on the opposite bank of the river) for my wedding, I had to arise before day-break. William Fowler, an old Southwood darkey, rowed the skiff about five miles upstream to Gueynard, thence across the Mississippi to Claiborne. In the afternoon of our wedding day, the bride and groom accompanied by Octave S. Broussard, embarked upon our wedding trip in a skiff propelled by William Fowler to Southwood plantation. We were, indeed, so very happy that the skiff served well the place of a palatial yacht. Needless to say to you children that we lived happily from that date until March 23, 1927, when your mother was called to her Eternal Reward.

“I had previously rented a small cottage of four rooms (situated about one mile above Southwood) from the Dreyfus family at \$6.00 per month. We occupied this little home until about April, 1886, by which time Theogene (Choke) Braud and Dorcini Dubois had completed the job of renovating a small cottage on the southeast corner of Riverside plantation, on the river road. Its dimensions were about 20' X 20' divided into three rooms. It appeared to have been somewhat better than a plantation cabin, probably a watchman's house. John, Jr. and Sidney were both born in this home.

"In December, 1888, Octave S. Broussard, Alexander Landry and I decided to venture into the mercantile world. On a trip to New Orleans I had met a Mr. Terry, of Ponchatoula, who offered to rent us a small store, with rooms in the rear, situated in Ponchatoula, at \$8 per month. In order to provide working capital, I contributed \$550.00 and they each put up \$275.00, giving us a fund of \$1100.00. All of us—Boussard, Landry, Mama, John, Jr., Sidney and I—went to Kenner via the Y. & M. V., thence to Ponchatoula by the Illinois Central. In a few days, Broussard, Landry and I went to New Orleans, and bought a stock of about \$1,000.00 from Jaubert Bros. and B. H. Flaspollers' Sons. We operated this little store for about 10 months—to Oct., 1889, and discovered that the business did not justify expenses, and we gradually sold out and quit buying. It was while we lived in Ponchatoula, that Octave Broussard met his future wife, Annie Duncan.

"We returned to New River Lane by rail. Mama and Sidney were both very ill, and while stopping at Felix Babin's home at Dutch Stores (where our family spent about 3 weeks) we were compelled to call Dr. Carruth several times.

"While working at Southwood, I had purchased from Mrs. Vileor Babin, a first cousin, the old home at Prairieville (which I subsequently sold to Willie De-laune) for \$500.00, the vendor selling only the improvements, as it was public land.

"Upon departing from the home of Mrs. Felix Babin, in about October, 1889, we moved into the old home at Prairieville, hereinabove just mentioned. I added a kitchen and enlarged one of the rooms by adding a wing on the south side.

"In 1890 I taught the public school at Prairieville, in a one-room school house then situated almost in front of the present location of the Catholic rectory. My salary was \$30.00 per month to teach the 45 pupils who attended.

"On the same day that Earline was born, Sidney fell from a persimmon tree which stood east of the Sam Landry home. For a time we feared that his injuries would prove fatal. Drs. Simmons, of Dutch Stores, and J. L. Violet, of Hope Villa, were called.

"In 1891 I made a crop of one bale of cotton, and a variety of other produce, such as potatoes, melons, etc., on the old Prairieville place. An old darkey named Cole, of Prairieville, worked the crop.

"In 1892-93-94, Vintress Babin worked the home place on a share basis. He made fairly good crops. I began working for Gonzales Bros. in August, 1892, leaving the family at the Prairieville home. Their first store was situated in the old Paul Landry store, then located on the site of the Weill store (later Barney-Johns, then Picard & Geismar), near the home of Lydia Marchand Coroy. I operated the Gonzales Bros. peddling cart every Thursday and Friday, and, in this manner, was enabled to visit the family every Thursday night. Every Saturday evening, at 5 o'clock, I would leave Gonzales on foot with a small supply of provisions on my back, and en route to the family, I travelled through the Calebasse section, which was then sparsely settled, and usually arriving home about 7 p. m. on Saturday. Our family continued to reside on the old homestead for about four years. At this time Joseph Gonzales built a small house on the north side of New River, on the eastern edge of Gonzales, wherein we moved about 1896. I taught school at Calebasse in 1897-98, and, at the same time, kept books for Gonzales Bros. In the latter part of 1898, I discontinued school teaching and entered the employ of Barney Johns Merc. Co., of Gonzales, which position I held until about 1900. when my employers closed their business. In 1901, I returned to Gonzales Bros., and, in 1902, Capt. Sam B. Moore opened a store on the Abe Wright place, just east of Gonzales, and south of the present L. & A. station. I continued with him until the latter part of 1904, when my commission as postmaster at Gonzales



Donaldsonville General Hospital, 311 R. R. Ave.
(Dr. Percy H. LeBlanc.)

arrived. I took charge of the office in February, 1905, and was reappointed in 1909.

"On March 7, 1900, I purchased from Dr. Thos. E. Moss the old "Beauregard Gautreau" home, where Lydia now lives, and where the family lived for many years. When I was first appointed postmaster I had Theogene (Choke) Braud and Ulger (Shoon) Bourque build a postoffice building, measuring 19' X 34'. I was postmaster until November, 1914, when Josephine Gonzales was appointed. She held the office until about 1920, and Lester Gonzales held it about two years. I was again appointed in 1922 by President Harding, and held the office until Dec. 1, 1934, at which time Lydia's husband, Albert B. Coroy, was appointed. Since December, 1934, I have been operating a small store, on Railroad avenue, in Gonzales, next to the postoffice. From 1914 to 1922 I operated a store for the Farmers' Union, then for myself. Thus closes three-quarters of a century of life in the New River country. Affectionately,

"John A. Marchand"

PART XVI

MEMORIES AND FLOWERS



Francis Harold Marchand

ALL SAINTS' DAY, in the Roman Catholic Church, is dedicated to the memory of our beloved dead, who have

crossed the Great River. On that day we repair to the graves of our loved ones, deposit flowers on the hallowed spot, and pray for those who once—as father, mother, sister, brother—smiled upon us and embraced us, and are now no more. Our prayers, uttered amidst the memories of the past, ascend to the great White Throne of our Eternal Father. Sadly we depart from the resting place of our departed parents, brothers, sisters, to return next All Saint's Day, if God so wills.

In the little home at Prairieville, Louisiana, some fifty-five years ago, there were, in addition to my parents, my brothers and sisters, John, Earline, Harold, Lydia and the writer. Little Evie, baby of the family, was born at Gonzales several years subsequent to our departure from Prairieville.

Of this little group, the following have been summoned to Eternal rest: Earline Mary, died Dec. 9, 1917, and is buried in the Prairieville Catholic cemetery; my mother, Lorena Gertrude Carver, who died on March 23, 1927, and is buried in the Catholic cemetery, at Gonzales; Evie Theresa, died on July 20, 1933, and is buried in Roselawn Memorial cemetery, Baton Rouge; my father, John A. Marchand, I, who died on August 16, 1939, and is buried near my mother's grave in the Catholic cemetery at Gonzales; and my dear brother, Francis Harold, who died just a few weeks ago—Sept 6, 1951, and is buried in the Catholic cemetery at Donaldsonville.

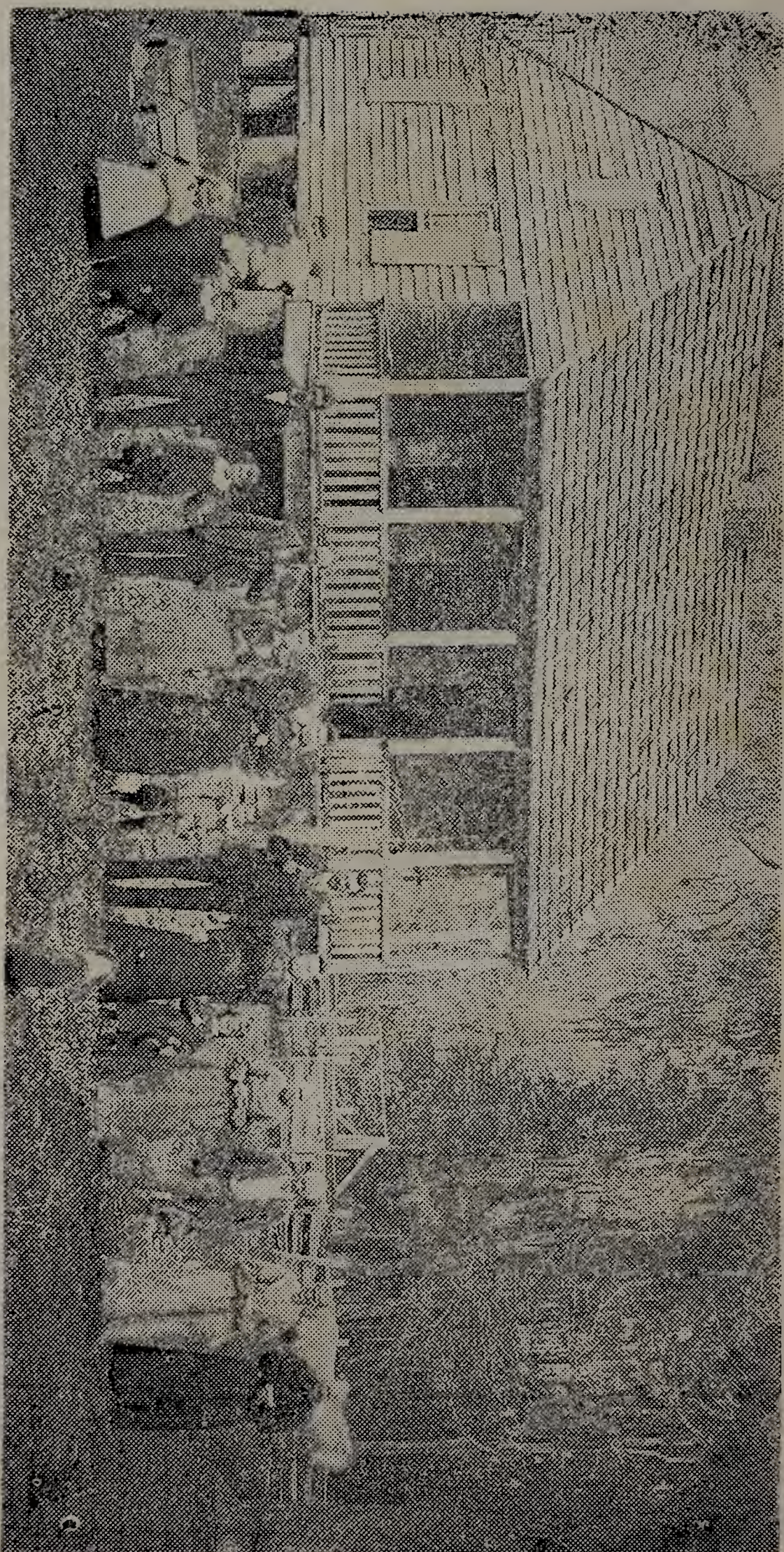
Following Earline's death, my mother and I visited her grave each year at All Saint's Day. It was apparent that my mother was grief-stricken by reason of Earline's death, and the passing years did little towards assuaging her sorrow. One following the other, they have all passed on. Their upright Christian lives make them truly worthy of the tribute paid to their memories in this little book.



Paul Carver Marchand



Jonathan H. Reynolds



A family picture taken in front of Mr. Alces Savoie's old home at Seals Point.



Walter Lemann
Mayor, Legislator, Progressive Citizen



Judge Henry L. Himel
Lawyer, Judge, Senator

Claiborne J. Dugas

Editor and co-owner Donaldsonville Chief 1945—, Supervisor of Schools, Ascension Parish 1937-1948, Secretary State Senate, 1948-1952, State Director of Registration, Louisiana 1951-1952, Member Board of Supervisors, Louisiana State University, 1948-1962.





Beverly Marchand and Joseph T. Lacour



Lorraine M. Blanchard and Family



Ascension Catholic Church of 1840, with
Church of 1875



Ascension Church, side view.



Beverly M. Lacour and Family



Madge M. LeBlanc and Family



Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Alces Savoie

LEAVES FALLING FROM THE TREE OF LIFE

The "Times-Picayune", of Sunday, December 9, 1951, carried the following death notice:

MARCHAND—At the residence, Gonzales, La., on Saturday, December 8, 1951, at 2:30 o'clock a. m., ALPHONSE PIERRE MARCHAND, beloved husband of Lydie Landry, father of Luke, Roy, Ida and Mae Marchand and Mrs. T. W. Bourgeois, all of Gonzales, La., Nelson Marchand of New Orleans, La.; Mrs. Alfred Brewerton of Baton Rouge, La., and Sister Bernadine of Bay St. Louis, Miss., also survived by 25 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, age 75 years, a native of Duplessis, La.

Relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, which will take place from the Welch Funeral Home, Gonzales, La., at 2:15 o'clock p. m., on Sunday, December 9, 1951. Religious services at St. Theresa Church, Gonzales, La. Interment in Gonzales cemetery.

Daily, monthly, yearly, one by one, the friends of our youth are summoned to drop out of the line of march on Life's great highway. The death of an old friend causes us to pause and reminisce on men and events of the long, long ago. Thus, the death of Alphonse P. Marchand, a warm personal friend of fifty years, brings back recollections of the long-forgotten year 1895, when Alphonse Marchand and George E. Bonicard, in their early 20's, dreaming of wealth, opened a small shop on the west side of the Dutchtown-Prairieville dirt road, about 1½ miles north of Dutchtown, Louisiana, and just south of the two-story home of the late Dr. C. D. Simmons.

The shop was built of upright boards, and though small, it was loaded with merchandise. The two young proprietors, over 50 years ago greeted everyone cordially, and waited for customers. Though but a child at the time, I, too, had a hankering for the merchandising field. I visited their store, looked around to see what I could buy at a reduced price to resell at a profit. After some bargaining, I made a deal with "A. P." for three bottles of Hoyt's cologne and a few cakes of oatmeal soap. "A. P." encouraged me, and in a few days I had a net profit of a few cents, the result of "brain-work" of a youngster.

As the years passed, "A. P." and his co-partner, George E. Bonicard, prospered, and moved to the east side of the country road, almost opposite their old location. In the course of a few years, Alphonse, or "A. P." as most of us called him, turned his eyes toward the new

village of Gonzales. Joseph Gonzales, city builder of the old school, had subdivided portions of the old Henry Parker and Vincent T. Landry tracts into a townsite, and he devoted his days and nights extolling the many advantages of the infant metropolis. Thus, "A. P." elected to stake his future in Gonzales, and he erected a small store on the south bank of New River, immediately below the home of Joseph Gonzales. He prospered, and in later years, erected a new and larger store on Burnside street, at the corner of Roosevelt. A leading citizen of Gonzales, he held several offices and took an active interest in all civic affairs.

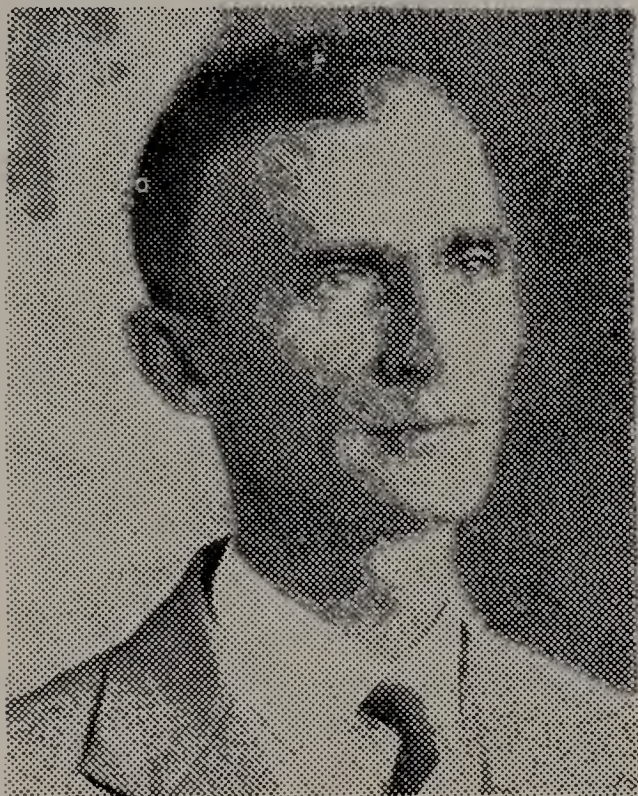
As I write from my Donaldsonville habitat of the old pioneer, Ansoah Marchand, the names of other splendid old pioneers are recalled, among them being John Mire, C. Daniel Blouin, Theogene "Choke" Braud, Ulger "Shoon" Bourque, Dorcini Dubois, J. Alfred Gonzales and Pierre Alces Savoie.

John Mire was the last surviving Ascension parish veteran of the Civil War. His son, Vic Mire, served as sheriff of this parish, and a grandson, Pegram Mire, was recently elected assessor. Among his other descendants, we find Dr. Lucien S. Mire and Judge Cledement Mire.

In the old days, a group of gallant old soldiers who wore the grey met at regular intervals to reminisce over the gallantry of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and P. G. T. Beauregard. Some of them had been members of that immortal band who laid down their arms and were paroled at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865. They were numerous, but after fifty years have elapsed, I recall but a few of them—J. Alfred Gonzales, W. P. (Uncle Print) Dixon, Thompson Brown, General O. O. Bullion (who was crushed in his gin at Hope Villa on August 28, 1905), John M. Lusk, "Mastok" Blouin and C. Daniel Blouin.

Pierre Alces Savoie was another "old-timer" whom I recall. About 1900-05, he left his Seals Point home each week, travelling in his old buggy and accompanied by his good wife, Eveline, for a visit to Gonzales. The latter place was then, as it is at present, the commercial and political center of the New River region. He was a constant talker, and whenever he and Joseph Gonzales met,

a good argument was sure to follow. Mr. Savoie dwelt on his acres at Seals Point, some 8 airline miles northeast of Gonzales, at the extreme end of the Gold Place road. Beyond his home stood the dark and dismal swamp and forest. His descendants are legion, among them being J. Paul Bourgeois, ex-mayor of Gonzales, ex-assessor of Ascension parish, secretary of the Ponchartrain Levee Board and publisher of the The Donaldsonville Chief. A daughter of Pierre Alces Savoie—Malvina—married Edmond Bourgeois, established their home in Duckroost, and witnessed the growth and development of the New River country.



J. Paul Bourgeois, Co-owner and publisher of The Donaldsonville Chief. Former Parish Assessor, Mayor of Gonzales 1940-48 and present secretary of the Pontchartrain Levee District.

They have attained the mature age of 85 and 81 years, respectively, and after sojourning in Shreveport some twenty years, have returned to the land of their first love, Duckroost and Seals Point. Among their descendants we find J. Paul, Allen, Theotiste (Mrs. Demas Poche), Regina (Mrs. Belezair Thomassie), Edmond, Camille, Malvina (Mrs. Oniel Gaudin), Germain, Alice, Fulgence and Vincent Bourgeois, with grandchildren and great-grandchildren galore. In addition to the foregoing children, Jules, Alcee and Sidney Bourgeois have been summoned to their eternal resting place.

Verily, the leaves—each in its turn—incessantly fall from the Tree of Life, but the Tree itself, being nourished and sustained by Divine Power, continues to grow, thrive, live and flourish.

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Mayors of Donaldsonville

Henry A. Folse (1933-41), Sidney A. Marchand (1929-33),
Walter Lemann (1913-17), George H. Richard (1903-05).

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